

THE STORY  
*of* SMITHVILLE

::

FRANK E. PAGE

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(Per 100 lbs.)	
(St. Lawrence, Reddick,	
Aquadini)	
No. 1 yellow, 100-lb.	\$8.14
No. 2 yellow, 100-lb.	7.64
No. 3 yellow, 100-lb.	7.54
<b>SUGAR AT MONTREAL.</b>	
Montreal, Aug. 12.—Wholesale sugar was quoted on the local market here to-day as follows:	
lb. bags, \$7.80; 20-lb.	runnies, \$8.10-
lb. runners, \$8.50;	5-lb. cases, \$8.20; 2-
lb. cases, \$8.55;	No. 1 yellow, \$7.55 per 100 lbs.; No. 2 yellow, \$7.30 per 100 lbs.

**J. Stuart Fleming**

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THE "KENACHDAW" RIVER OR TWENTY MILE CREEK





PLOWING IN EARLY DAYS



# THE STORY OF SMITHVILLE

—BY—

FRANK E. PAGE



1923

TRIBUNE-TELEGRAPH PRESS

Welland - Canada





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# THE STORY OF SMITHVILLE

## INTRODUCTION

"Smithville, my old home town"—how much these words mean to the men and women, boys and girls who have broken home ties, left the haven of wise counsel, and the loving care of fond parents, who have left old associates and the familiar scenes of childhood, who have parted from the schoolmates of earlier days, and gone out into the world,—these are the men and women who know in the truest sense the meaning of the words "home" and "home town." As a boy this thought frequently came to mind,—“Would I ever have to leave my old home and native village when I should grow to be a man?” I always answered my own question in this way: “If I have the choosing of my future I shall stay in the dearest place on earth, the place of my birth.” Fate however, has decreed otherwise, and it is now fourteen years since I stood on the depot platform waiting with mingled feelings of anticipation, fond hopes, regrets and fears, and a sense of tears unshed, for the train that would take me to new scenes, and a new life in unfamiliar places. Looking backward to that day I can perhaps best express my feelings in this little song, which the memory of happy days has suggested to my mind.

## THE VALLEY OF YOUTH

*There's a home in a valley, where bright flowers bloom,  
And the bird-songs are sweeter to me,  
Than all the gay songsters of climes just as fair.  
'Tis the home of my boyhood so free,  
Where pure apple blossoms perfumed purer air.  
All its beauty in memory I see;  
And though I may wander in many sweet bowers,  
There is only one valley for me.*

Chorus:

*It's the valley of youth, it's the valley of truth,  
The memory dwells in my heart,  
And in fancy I live the fond hours again.  
May their sweet incense never depart.*

*As memory turns backward I see once again  
The bare-footed chums of my youth,  
The smiling green fields, the old miller's dam,  
The church where we heard from God's truth.  
I see my sweet mother with silvery hair,  
And a face pure and tender to see,  
So of all the fair valleys I've seen anywhere,  
There is only one valley for me.*

*I hear the cows lowing, the birds sweetly sing,  
The busy bee hums round the door.  
I hear the old bell of the village church ring,  
In my heart it shall ring evermore.  
New valleys I know and new faces I meet,  
New pleasures in life there may be,  
But, oh for a glimpse of my old fashioned home,  
In the valley of boyhood to me!*

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Visiting Smithville a year ago I was impressed with the many changes which had taken place during my fourteen years of absence. The very appearance of the place was in a measure unfamiliar; new businesses had sprung up and many old ones had changed ownership. New faces were seen everywhere. Many of the older people had passed into the Great Beyond. I asked myself this question: "Would the next generation be able to obtain the complete history of this, one of the oldest villages in Ontario; would there be men and women living who could tell them of the Smithville of long ago?"

The present native population consists of the third and fourth generations, counting the original inhabitants as the first generation. Realizing these facts I determined to record in a simple way the story of Smithville and her people, in order that it might be preserved and that future generations might know how and when their home-town came into existence; and that they might profit by the knowledge of how their ancestors built the corner-stone of a structure, of which they may be justly proud. Having determined to carry out this purpose, I decided to trace the history from the first settler, 1787, up to the present time (1922). It is not my purpose to give my readers a mere statement of historical dates and events, but rather a narrative telling of the lives of our forefathers, their joys and sorrows, hopes and fears. In order that the readers may better appreciate the stories and events recorded herein, I may assure them that the historical part is a true and accurate account of time, places and events. These facts were obtained from branches of pioneer families living in United States, from County and Township records and from those of the Canadian Archives, all of which are authentic. The incidents, customs and stories recorded were obtained from reliable eye witnesses; or as told them by parents and pioneer acquaintances. In this connection I am indebted to the following, who are the four oldest residents of Smithville, namely, Isaac Wardell, John Field, John Davis, Sr., and Mrs. Jane Cobb, all four being related to the first pioneer settlers and all four relatives of the author. Naturally the facts available centre around the ancestors of these old people, who can recall so much of what they have seen and heard.

I am also grateful for valuable information received from the following, who belong to a younger generation, Calvin Page, Alvin Hill, John Hill, Robert Murgatroyd, Martin Barry, W. F. H. Patterson, and Mrs. Catherine Patterson. One outstanding truth in connection with the rural history of our Province is that there is a type of men which are



passing, namely the picturesque personalities, which were found in rural Ontario a generation ago, and which stood out from the average personality by reason of strongly marked individuality. They did not mind being thought different from other people, nor did they mind expressing any opinion different from that generally prevailing. Their sayings were quoted as local philosophy, and although not always taken seriously, they contained much shrewdness and wisdom. Today we are more inclined to think and act in groups. I hope we may be able to retain some of this honest homely philosophy through the reading of this little volume. We wish in this story to bring to the present generation of Smithville citizens, a true picture of the character, ideals and customs, of their pioneer ancestors.

Smithville and the world owes much to the enterprise, the love of adventure, the thrift and daring of the pioneer. Dangers beset him on every hand, yet he pressed forward with a determination undaunted, and the fruits of his labor are now enjoyed by Posterity.

*As I dream by the fireside, a picture I see,  
Of life's crowded gallery, the dearest to me,—  
An old fashioned home, with fireside aglow,  
And an old fashioned couple with hair white as snow.*

*It's the old pioneers, God bless them today.  
They have taught us to work, to love, and to pray.  
Like the stalwart old oak, they are strong, brave and true,  
For they built up the homeland 'neath Red, White and Blue.  
They have braved the old forest, a conquest they've won;  
They have finished their labor where we've just begun.  
May the torch which they hand us be kept burning bright,  
For their Nation's glory, and our true birthright.*

*May the God of our fathers be our God today,  
And their noble example guide us on our way.  
May our Nation be builded on their noble plan,  
A nation of service for our fellowman.*

In studying the history of our people, (when I say 'our people' I mean native born Smithvilltonians). I was impressed by this fact, namely, our common ancestry;—nearly every old Smithville family, if they were to trace their ancestry back to the early pioneers, would find that somewhere along that line of ancestry they were in some measure, by ties of blood or marriage, related to nearly every other family whose ancestry dated back to the early settlement of this village.

We have then in a measure a common ancestry, which should do much toward binding us together as a community. Our forefathers were neighbors and friends in the true pioneer meaning of the words. May this encourage us in the modern application of the community spirit of progress and helpfulness. May we realize that we share a common heritage, the result of the united efforts of a common ancestry. May

we not be inspired to be worthy of the heritage which is ours, and profit by recalling the sterling qualities of heart and head of the pioneer builders of our community?

If the writing of this book will accomplish these results, I shall have been amply repaid for any labor expended.

If the men and women who have gone out into the world and call Smithville 'home,' are inspired to live more useful, honest, God-fearing lives; if the citizens now calling Smithville their home, have a desire to make their home a place bigger and better, to build well on the structure whose foundation was laid by men, staunch and true, if the spirit of fellowship and goodwill is promoted; then I shall be glad and proud, not only of our pioneer forefathers, but also of their children's children.





# THE STORY OF SMITHVILLE

## CHAPTER I.

### HISTORICAL

Quebec, the ancient Capital, had fallen before the successful attack of the English under the command of General Wolfe, the army of the gallant Montcalm having been defeated and his strongest and best fortified position captured. Both brave generals gave their lives at this decisive battle and upheld by their bravery the honor of their respective nations. Today the descendants of both races honor the names and revere the memory of these men of France and England. A single monument has been erected in the city in honor of both Generals, which shows that the descendants of two great races have forgotten or buried old differences and have shown their united respect for two brave gentlemen who died, fighting under different banners.

The young settlement which gave so much promise for the future of France now became an English Colony. It is around this former French Colony, that the vast confederation of Canada grew. With a large measure of freedom, civil and religious, the settlers were content to be loyal to the British Crown, and later, when the time of testing came, most of them refused to join the American Revolutionists against the English, while about four hundred of them took up arms in defence of British institutions.

Let us see how our country was settled at this time. She had a total population of about sixty thousand souls, located at Quebec, Three Rivers and Montreal, the rest thinly scattered along the shores of the St. Lawrence and the Richelieu. The lands about the Great Lakes and the western country were held only by a few scattered forts, buried in the thick wilderness, where trade was carried on with the Indians. Many soldiers and traders, cut off from civilization, took wives from the Indian tribes about them and became as lawless as the Indians. In time of war, however, these men were the Frontier's best defense.

It is of the settlements about the Great Lakes in which we are most interested in this volume which will be dealt with more fully in part 2 of this chapter.

The dress of the upper classes of the French at this period was like that prevailing among the same classes in France, although less extravagant—powdered hair, long wide frocked coats of gay colors, with lace at neck and wristbands. Out of doors the dress of the nobility was more distinctively Canadian—overcoats of native cloth were worn with large pointed hoods. I have seen in the ancient Capital in our own time parties of French Snowshoers and tobogganists dressed in blanket coats with pointed collars; these costumes brightened by gay sashes, a survival in some measure of the early out-of-door dress of their ancestors.

The Habitants dressed more simply—in coarse homespun coat, grey leggings, woollen cap and moccasins of cowhide, this costume being

brightened by a bright colored sash. The muskets used at this time were the heavy flintlocks which produced fire by the flint striking a piece of steel when the trigger came down, causing a spark, which fell into a pan containing powder which it ignited. This primitive method of producing fire was practised by the Indians and was their only means of starting a fire.

From this brief review of the French Colony let us turn to a review of the conditions existing in the more English part of our country.

In 1774 Sir Guy Carleton, (Lord Dorchester) who was Governor-General (or Governor as he was known in those days), used his influence with the British Parliament to bring about the passing of the Quebec Act, whereby the French Civil law was restored and the Roman Catholic religion established. Thus the French Canadians were given their Civil and Religious liberty, were allowed under British rule to retain their language and individuality, which no doubt had a great influence upon them in determining the attitude they should take in the struggle that was soon to take place in America.

After the Treaty of Paris was signed and the fear of French invasion of the Colonies no longer prevailed, the American Colonists began plotting and planning against the King, and against the Officers of the Crown, who were administering the affairs of the Colony in America.

The reader may ask: "What bearing have these historical facts on the history and development of Smithville?" I may say that it has an all-important bearing for it determined and tested the loyalty of certain men and women of the American colony; it determined the extent of their courage in leaving home and country and entering into the privation and dangers of a new land for a principle. It determined who was to pioneer our Smithville forest of long ago; it determined who were to be the ancestors of its several generations. It determined the time when Smithville should have its first white inhabitant. So let us follow the events in America which have such a direct bearing on the early history of our native village.

The Seven Years War was purely a war for the Colonies. England had been pouring out blood and treasure to defeat their foes. She had burdened herself with a great debt which she asked the Colonies by taxation to assist in paying. They, on the other hand, had no representation in the British Parliament, and objected to paying 'tribute to Caesar.'

It was a situation where tact, judgment and toleration were required on both sides, but unfortunately none was exercised on either. The British Parliament was bitter because they considered the Colonies ungrateful and unpatriotic, in refusing to share the burden of debt which the war had produced. The Colonists on the other hand believed that their most sacred rights were being trampled under foot. Their wrath, kindled into a flame by agitators, who were paraded across the pages of history as patriots, drove them to extreme resolutions and more extreme measures.

In both the Loyalist and Revolutionary parties there were to be found, however, true patriots. Among them stands out pre-eminently,



Washington, who sought a common ground of reconciliation, rather than bloodshed and separation. The customs and trade of the Colonies was being interfered with, Colonial commerce being allowed to flow into British ports only. The great products of the country could be sold to none but Great Britain, and none but British ships were allowed in Colonial harbors. The King's army and navy were employed to prevent smuggling. The ill-bred arrogance of British officers had made them hated by their equals, the members of the Colonial militia. There is little doubt that the English army stationed in the colonies did more to sow the seed of discord than any other agency. The Colonists saw the stiff-necked will of King and Parliament exemplified in the arrogant behavior of their military forces in America. It is true that the Colonists had just grievances, which should have been given a fair hearing. Pitt fought against the rash policy of Parliament, but in vain. Extremists in America fanned the flame of prejudice and drove the British Parliament into even sterner measures in order to force the colonies into subjection.

Whatever may have been the causes for grievance, direct and indirect; whatever sticks were cast upon the flaming fire of Colonial indignation, this fact stands out prominently, that there came a day in 1774 when a congress was called at Philadelphia, where the first real break between the Colonies and the Motherland took place. Men who had fought together in defence of British soil and institutions now crossed swords. I have visited the historic Independence Hall in Philadelphia where in 1776 the formal Declaration of Independence was signed. A comparatively small plain building, situated in the heart of the Quaker City. On the walls of the famous room hang the pictures of the men who signed the Declaration. In the same building is the historic and much treasured liberty bell, which has a large crack down its side. Whether this is an indication that the bell has been overworked in ringing forth its peals of liberty I am not prepared to say; at any rate it is a much prized treasure of the American people.

We now come to that part of the war which to the Canadian people is of the greatest importance. When the second Congress met in 1775 in Philadelphia, an urgent appeal was sent to Nova Scotia and Quebec, calling on them to join in opposing British tyranny, but the message fell upon deaf ears. Let us remember that these same French-Canadians had not long before this time fought and lost to Great Britain. The French would stay under the British flag. Let those who wave the flag highest and shout loudest of loyalty beware how they criticize the military activities of the French-Canadians. I would suggest that they first study the history of French Canada, her habitant life, temperament and ambitions. We shall see before this chapter closes how the French-Canadians behaved in this crisis in the history of our country.

In April, 1775, General Gage, Military Governor at Boston, sent out a detachment to seize some rebel stores at the village of Lexington. They accomplished their purpose, but were driven back to the city with heavy losses by the minute men of the rebel forces.

This was the actual beginning of the war of independence of the American Colonies, which changed the whole history of America and divided for the first time the English-speaking race. Two months later came the Battle of Bunker's Hill, where the English regulars were repulsed, but finally carried the position and completely defeated the Rebel forces. I have often gazed at the cannon which was captured at this battle by the English forces which is now a trophy standing on the Citadel at Quebec. I say I have often looked upon this prize and wondered why so frequently writers and speakers refer to the Battle of Bunker's Hill as an American victory. At this time the Congress in session at Philadelphia decided that if Canada was not longing for real liberty, then this liberty must be thrust upon her.

An army of 3,000 men under General Montgomery was sent against Montreal while Colonel Arnold with a force of 1,200 men approached Quebec.

To defend Canada against these two invasions the Governor, Sir Guy Carleton, had only about four hundred regulars and 550 French-Canadian volunteers. Had it not been for the added strength brought by these 550 Canadians, Quebec would have fallen and we would now probably be an annexation of The United States of America. These 550 men were fighting the battle of their former enemy and conqueror, England, and let us give them credit for saving to posterity this land of the North which has become the great country within the Empire which it is today.

To Sir Guy Carlton we owe much. Had it not been for his energy and skill Quebec would have been lost. Montreal was captured by the rebel forces. Sir Guy fled to Quebec, rallied all his forces, expelled the doubtful and disloyal ones, and awaited the attack with 1600 men at his back. Arnold and Montgomery now besieged the ancient city and endured for a time the rigorous Quebec winter, which at times is bitterly cold. They were chagrined that the French-Canadians could not be seduced, and if they stayed until spring they feared the arrival of a British fleet.

It was the last night of the year 1775. In the darkness and in a driving storm the besiegers crept up to take the city by assault; two columns moved upon Lower Town, where street fighting took place, until a body of troops arrived from Upper Town. Falling upon the rear of the invaders they captured about 400 and put the rest to rout.

The second assaulting column, led by Montgomery himself, came down the St. Lawrence shore from Wolfe's Cove, and sought to enter the city by a narrow path where now runs Champlain Street. At the head of this path stood guard a company of Canadians. They had a small cannon loaded with grape, pointing up the path. The invaders made a rush to overpower the guard, but were met by a volley of grape which mowed down the head of their column. Among the slain were Montgomery and his two Aides. The assailants fled in a panic. In the morning the dead bodies of the enemy were brought into the city, that of Montgomery receiving special consideration. He was buried



in the St. Louis bastion. The place where Montgomery fell is now marked by a large stone which may be seen from Champlain Street, which runs winding along the St. Lawrence. It is a strange coincidence that Montgomery, an invader of Canada, and Carleton, her defender, had both fought under Wolfe in his last campaign.

How strange the fortunes of war; duty, passion, hatred, patriotism, the lure of the battlefield, the martial music, the heated and oft-times illogical public speech, all these combine to influence men and nations to line up against each other, even brother against brother, father against son and comrade against comrade. And so Montgomery, a good soldier, humane and a gentleman was respected by his foes and his body gently laid to rest on British soil.

In the Spring a British fleet came and the invaders hastily withdrew. Consider the old British fleet,—how many hearts it has cheered in its long history of gallant achievement; it has held the Old Empire intact, it has championed and protected isolated civilization in many scenes and climes, and now the besieged Quebeckers were cheered by its timely arrival in the St. Lawrence. Fighting continued during the summer, and a naval battle in the Autumn in which the Revolutionists were defeated, ended the campaign and left Canada free of the invader.

Canada was not willing to have the new liberty thrust upon her, and by force of arms demonstrated her determination to remain a part of the British Empire.

### THE LOYALISTS

Who were they? They were those men and women living in the American Colonies who were opposed to fighting the British, were opposed to the Declaration of Independence, and had enough love for British tradition, law and institutions, that they refused to join the Rebel forces in their struggle for independence. Many of them took up arms against the Colonial forces. When England signed the Treaty of Versailles she left these Loyalists to their fate. In the British Parliament Lord Sackville said: "A peace founded on the sacrifice of these unhappy subjects must be accursed in the sight of God and man." The Government pleaded harsh necessity and so for a time they were left to face daily the hatred and persecution of their neighbors; they were looked upon as traitors because they would not take up arms against England. At the time of the evacuation of New York Sir Guy Carleton commanded the English forces in America and feeling bitterly the desertion of the Loyalists, he sent several thousand of them away in the King's ships, but many beyond the reach of Carleton's care were put to death, scourging, ducking, tarring and feathering was the fate that fell to the remainder. There were driven out in poverty, men whose only guilt was having fought in fair fight a lawful cause and lost.

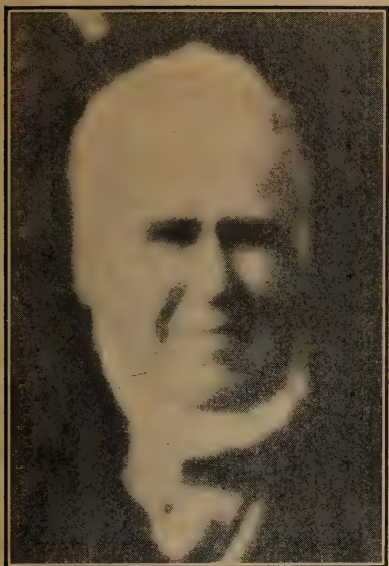
At Charleston, when the King's troops sailed away they could see the bodies of twenty-four Loyalists abandoned to their fate by the country they had fought for, swing from a row of gibbets on the wharf.

Shame upon the England of that day that permitted such crime and was a party to such a peace. Shame upon the Colonists for meting out such treatment on a beaten unprotected foe.

But history was in the making, events were leading up to the greatest migration of the best blood of the British race, who were to be the builders of a sturdy English settlement in Canada, which would mould the destiny of the greatest Colony of the British Empire. The most influential Judges, the most distinguished lawyers, the most prominent physicians, the most highly educated of the clergy, the Crown officials, people of culture and distinction; these with the faithful few whose fortunes followed theirs were the Loyalists.

From Maine to Georgia they came to the wilds of Canada to make new homes and build up new communities out of the forests of the Northland. Sir Guy Carlton was the great mover on their behalf, and England tried to redress the wrong which had been done these loyal subjects, by giving them grants of land in Canada and assisting them in colonization. From 1784 to 1788 they flocked into Canada, one stream of them settling in the Maritime Provinces, and another in what are now known as the Eastern Townships and on the north shore of Lake Ontario, around its western end, and in the Niagara Peninsula. Pioneer days were past for the habitant of Quebec, but in 1783-1787 they were just beginning for the settlers who were flocking into Ontario. Sixty thousand of them (the Loyalists) came and put the stamp of their character upon the far eastern and middle provinces, and so we learn by following this brief historical outline, who our ancestors were, why and when they came to Canada, and the conditions existing in the country to which they migrated, for these were the men and women who came first to Smithville and whom we honor as our ancestry.

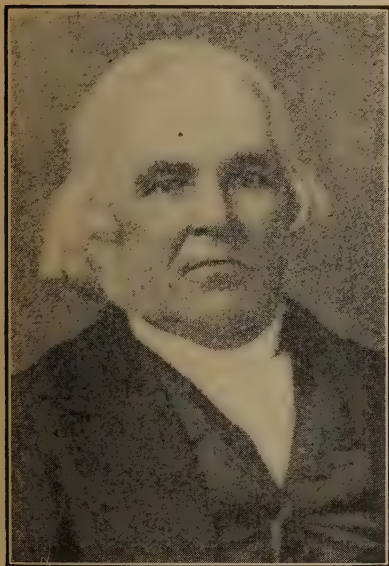




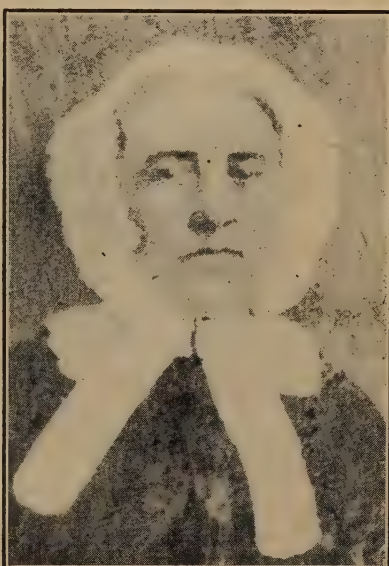
JAMES HARVEY GRIFFIN



JAMES DOWLIN PAGE  
(Deacon Page)



JACOB FISHER



MARY (Polly) FISHER PAGE





## FIRST INHABITANTS

### CHAPTER II.

The name Griffin is a familiar one to the citizens of Smithville and has an important place in the history and development of the village. In the seventeenth century a number of families migrated to America from the old land. Among others were the Griffins, three brothers, Edward, William and Richard, from Wales. The Cranes, Lounsburys, Travises, Reids and Raymonds also came to New York State about the same time. Shortly after their arrival in America the Griffins moved to Queman's Landing on the Mohawk River. The Richard Griffin referred to had a son Richard who had a family of eleven children; seven sons and four daughters. Ned or Edward was the eldest son and was, no doubt, named after his grandfather's brother, Edward. Abraham was the next son, then Smith who was named after his mother, who was a Smith. Smith's wife was a sister of Solomon Hill. Bethiah Griffin, a daughter, was married to Solomon Hill. These with seven others made up the Richard Griffin family. To make this union of the two families, the Hills and the Griffins more clear, we may add that two grandchildren of the first Griffin who came to America, married two grandchildren of the first Hill, who came to America. After the Revolutionary war in 1787 the Griffins like thousands of other United Empire Loyalists, decided to leave their home in America and seek a land of liberty. It was then that the first movement northward of our ancestors took place. They decided to come to Canada. The party consisted of Richard Griffin and ten of his children, while one, Mrs. Solomon Hill remained in the United States until 1795. Richard Griffin and his family were destined to play an important part in the commercial life of the Niagara Peninsula of Upper Canada. Having talked much of the then little known country they decided at last to leave their homes and venture into the untamed forests of a new and undeveloped land. In these days of modern methods of transportation we can scarcely realize what such a decision implied. The first thought was plans for modes of travelling. The route to the Canadian frontier was but a trackless forest. There were no roads, not even the corduroy ones of bumpy renown and very few trails. First of all a year's provisions were packed into the big wagons, which would insure their living until such time as land could be cleared and a crop harvested. It was well for them and their families that such provision was made as we shall learn later. They also decided to take with them a few cattle, and when we say that these had to be driven through the forest and that the wagons were drawn by oxen, we can get some conception of the speed or rather lack of speed with which the journey was accomplished. I wonder if this family, breaking their way slowly and laboriously through the forest, did not possess more of the wealth of contented minds and healthy bodies than the occupants of the average high-powered car speeding daily over our splendid highways. We cannot pay too high a tribute to the courage and loyal de-

votion of the mothers of those days who undertook such a journey and faced the hardships of rigorous winters in an unknown wilderness. They as well as their husbands suffered all the hardships incident to the settlement of a new country, and by their example and staunch courage inspired and encouraged their husbands to overcome difficulties that the bravest hearts found hard to bear. Let us picture in our minds this little party as they started upon their long journey from what was then known as Nine Partners, N.Y. First, perhaps, would be the oxen, who would break their way through undergrowth and obstacles, then came the cattle followed by another wagon drawn by oxen. There may have been a tear in the eye and a lump in the throat of many of them, as they said goodbye to the place that had been home to them and where some of the party had first seen the light of day. And so with hopes and fears, regrets and tears the little band starts on its long and difficult journey to Canada. It was necessary through most of the journey to cut their way through dense undergrowth and fallen trees. There may have been some few trails blazed here and there, but very few that would serve them for any great distance. Wild animals were the great thought at night and the camp must needs be carefully guarded. Roving bands of Indians might be encountered at any time. The howl of the wolf when all was still about the camp would startle the sleepers and make them realize that they were in a wilderness and entirely dependent upon God's protecting care.

They were just the type of people who would have a full realization of and trust in God's all wise care of His own, and this faith and confidence no doubt was their source of strength in all the trying days and nights that followed.

At last safe and unmolested they arrived, oxen, cattle, baggage, babies and all, at Youngstown, New York. Their next problem was to cross the Niagara River, which was no small one, as there were no ferries at that time. A large raft served the purpose and they landed safely on Canadian soil. Thank God that these sturdy-hearted pioneers, faithful mothers and innocent babes were spared and protected and that their feet were planted on British soil, the land which they and sixty thousand other Loyalists were to make great. They are now in the little Village of Niagara at the mouth of the lovely Niagara River.

One thing is noticeable in the opening of all new lands where forests abound, and that is the tendency of the pioneer, the explorer, the adventurer, to follow the streams, the inland lakes and rivers. There are several reasons for this the chief being that the lands are more accessible by water, a highway provided by Nature, making it easy to get from one part of the country to another, and an easy means of transporting supplies. Another reason is the fertility of the soil and the productiveness of the lands along the waters. Still another reason is the natural beauty of forest stream, lake and river, which appeals to the artistic taste, which most people possess to some degree at least. This was true in the settlement of Upper Canada, already as early as 1785 the Wardells and other families had crossed the same Niagara River and had



settled along Lake Ontario on the fertile lands, bordering on the lake. We shall learn later how this same Wardell family in romantic fashion was to come in touch with the Griffin family who now in 1787 were seeking a new home in Upper Canada.

Previous to the coming of the Loyalists it may be said that people had lived in the Niagara Peninsula, but they were not permanent settlers, but rather traders who came to barter with the Indians, remaining for a time and then departing. The Loyalists were truly the first permanent settlers in the Niagara District.

Breaking their road as they went they travelled westward up the Lake until they came to the Fifteen Mile Pond. These streams emptying into Lake Ontario get their names from the distance which their mouths is from the mouth of the Niagara River. Thus the Fifteen Mile Creek is fifteen miles from Niagara, the Eighteen Mile Creek a distance of eighteen miles, etc. After reaching the Fifteen Mile Pond they found that it was impossible to ford at its mouth, so they detoured a considerable distance inland until a fording place was reached. After crossing the stream it was necessary to follow it on the other shore, back to the lake which they wanted to follow until a desirable location for settlement could be found. Their progress on this important journey was at the rate of three or four miles per day. Following the lake they arrived next at the sixteen Mile Pond, where the experience of the Fifteen Mile Pond had to be repeated. Undaunted by such difficulties, they pushed on, for they now felt that they were truly nearing the Promised Land. They began already to forget some of the hardships of their long journey as they anticipated their arrival at what was to be their new home. There is a fascination about the building of a home, no matter where it is created, whether by the pioneer of the forest or by the young people in a city apartment. Even the wild tribes of a meagre civilization have implanted in their breasts a love of home and a home-fire glow.

After crossing the Eighteen Mile Pond, they began to think of investigation and decided that they would camp at the next stream. The next one to which they came was the Jordan River. Truly here was a suitable stopping place. Like the Israelites of old, they would view the promised land. And so at this point they struck camp for an indefinite period. This River Jordan or Twenty as it is generally known, had in the early days an Indian name, "Kenochdaw," meaning "Lead River." Both Indian and white hunters having in days of yore often replenished their magazines with this metal along the stream, found mostly at points that were afterwards known as Smithville and Morses Rapids. Occasional veins of silver were also found here.

Several tributary streams empty themselves into the Twenty, the largest being the Eight Mile Creek, also the north creek runs through a portion of the south part. The mountain called Mount Dorchester by Royal proclamation in 1792 lies the length of the district at a distance of from one to two miles from the lake. This belt of land forms a gradual slope from the mountain to the lake, while along the summit of the mountain it is somewhat hilly, sloping off to the south into flat land.

Along the Twenty Mile Creek the land is beautifully rolling, the soil along this stream being black and loamy, in some localities having an under-strata of limestone. In the valley of the Twenty, oaks and pines grew measuring from five to six feet in diameter and as straight as a candle. The oaks were sixty to seventy feet in height and the pines from one hundred to one hundred and seventy-five feet. Wild grapes, plums, crab apples and berries were in abundance. The wild animals were deer, moose, hares, rabbits, woodchucks, wolves, bears, foxes, lynx and squirrels. Along the streams the otter, mink and muskrat were found. Such was the land in which these home-seekers found themselves. The more or less permanent camp having been set up, they started to look about. Edward Griffin, better known as Ned, the eldest son, and Abraham journeyed up the Jordan to spy out the land. These two sons of Richard Griffin had an object in following the winding course of the Twenty Mile Creek. The Griffins had formerly been millers and they had brought with them two of the old-fashioned grinding stones, and were now seeking to locate a homestead where a water power was available. Arriving at a point which in their judgment was the most suitable location for their purpose, they decided that this was the promised land at last. Here they saw the possibilities of a suitable water power. The land from the water's edge was gently rising to a level stretch, which was chosen as the sight of the first log dwelling. Here the land was high and dry, well drained and heavily wooded. The spot chosen by these two pioneers was what afterwards became the Village of Smithville. Thus we see how circumstances, however trivial, determine where a town, city or village is to spring up. The Griffins followed the Twenty because it appeared the most promising of the Rivers emptying into the lake. They chose the point along its banks at Smithville because of the possibilities of a water power, and the favorable surroundings at this point. They may have been influenced, too, by a desire to keep a reasonable distance from the lake, as the river was their only trail and outlet into the then known Canada. Here they worked at clearing the land from the flats to what is now Griffin Street, about an acre of ground, choosing this spot for their log dwelling. The spot where this dwelling was built afterwards became the old Durkey homestead, and was owned later by Frank Patterson who lived there. This is the lot adjoining the south side of Mr. J. A. Schnick's, on which his tailor shop stands at the present time. It was an ideal spot and reflects creditably upon the judgment of the Griffins in their choice of a home. On Saturday night they followed the winding Twenty to the camp at the lake where they reported to interested listeners what they had found. The following week Richard and his son Ned journeyed to the new home and took up the homestead of eight hundred acres from the Crown, which was afterwards known as the Griffin estate. They worked hard and in a few days the men had completed the log dwelling which will be described in the next chapter. Richard returned to the camp and Ned remained for some time alone in the new log house, clearing the land and making rough furniture, such as chairs and tables, out



of limbs of the forest for the new home. Ned Griffin can truly be called the first white settler who resided in Smithville. Here alone in the forest inhabited only by Indians and wild beasts he dwelt for a time until the arrival of the family. Smith Griffin is usually spoken of as the founder and first citizen of Smithville, but this honor belongs to his elder brother Edward, or Ned, who chose the spot as their home, felled the first tree, and was the first dweller in Smithville. Smith Griffin is credited with being the first merchant while this honor also belongs to Ned, although Smith later on became a merchant, but in the meantime he was a miller.

We are not told which of the other sons at this time were old enough to take part in the work of these first few weeks. No doubt Smith, Isaiah and Richard, the father, were all busy. Business with the Government land offices, bringing in supplies, investigating other desirable locations, etc., would keep them busy. We are not told just what part they had in clearing the first acre and building the log house at Smithville, but we assume that each man did faithfully the work assigned to him.

## EARLY LIFE

### CHAPTER III.

Richard Griffin had a good sized family, eleven children, and must have a good sized house to accommodate them. He built what was in those early days considered a large cabin. It was made of logs as lumber up to this time could only be made with the whip saw and the crosscut. The logs were cut out of the forest, notched, and put into position, log upon log, until the side walls were completed. The cracks between the logs were filled with a sort of clay mortar. The building was long and narrow and of very few rooms. The main room contained the big open fireplace, was living room, dining room, kitchen, and for a time, bedroom as well. After the log walls were completed the fireplace was built, the chimney being constructed of sticks and clay which were replaced later by stone and mortar. The roof was made of poles covered with bark and stuffed with moss and clay. A few pieces of crude furniture made by Ned Griffin, along with some few things which had been brought with them across the border, comprised the furnishings of the new homes. The few boards which they required for various purposes were obtained laboriously by the use of whip-saw and crosscut. Pioneer homes in a wooded country are usually built in a clearing, nearly every tree, and in many cases the last tree, being cut down about the buildings. With forest all about them one can readily understand the desire of the settler to build his home where he would have as it were, a breathing space, room to stretch, and to get a full view of the sky. The tendency is now the opposite, with the wide stretches of open country we build our homes among a cluster of trees, and if trees are not available we grow them. Thus through all the history of mankind we find his tastes his demands, and his resources vary and are subject to constant change as one period ushers in another. Walnut logs went into the walls of some of the dwellings of those early days that the builder of this generation would pay dearly to obtain. Choice timber was piled and burned in order to clear the land—of timber they had an abundance, of workable land they had none. It is sad to note in our day that our timber lands are fast disappearing and unless the reforestation and conservation policy of our Governments are carefully adhered to, we shall have a forestless country.

The first home of Smithville was now sheltering its first family. Soon, however, sons and daughters of Richard Griffin chose homesteads of their own and settled down, the forerunners of a sturdy race and a prosperous community. During the four years previous to the coming of the Griffins, namely 1783 to 1787, settlers had been coming in and the British Government had kept commissioners at work enquiring into the claims of the Loyalists. \$15,000,000 was paid them in indemnities besides the land grants, implements and supplies of food which were issued. In many cases grafters, or human, I should say inhuman parasites, who should have distributed harrow teeth, logging chains,\*etc., with-

out cost to the settlers, charged them outrageous prices for these much-needed supplies. By this time, 1787, the Government was expecting the settlers to depend upon their crops and resourcefulness, which, together with the assistance already received should enable them to carry on. It was at this time that the settlements were called upon to endure the greatest hardships in their whole history. In 1787 the crops, meagre at best considering the amount of land under cultivation, failed almost completely.

Those who had not stored up a little provision were faced with starvation. This was in the lake region and as the Government had undertaken to feed the people for three years only, many were now facing a year with scanty food to sustain life. This was known as the hungry year. The people were forced to live upon anything that would sustain life. Plants, roots and the buds of trees were gathered carefully and eaten. Plants that the livestock would eat were considered safe for the settlers. Anything which contained nourishment was used for food. Roots, plants and nuts were mixed with a sort of bran which made a gruel, fish were obtained from the creeks, and while game was plentiful, ammunition was scarce, and was used sparingly. In those days they had the game and in our generation we have the ammunition, but the gap of time cannot be bridged and so the law of supply for a particular period says, that each period has its limitations, and rightly so. If all the possible needs of a generation were supplied, for what would they strive? Every bee in the hive of society would be a drone. And so God has ordered supply according to need in His own best way. It was a sad year for the early settlers and it was a long time before they recovered from the sufferings endured for the want of proper food. Some of the people died from under nourishment. But a brighter day was dawning for them. 1788 saw the wheat heads filling out plump and full and the brave hearts took courage, for they could see the end of their sufferings. Thus we see how fortunate was the preparation of the Griffins in that they brought a year's provision and some livestock with them. These hardships were spared them, and they were able to keep strong bodies to perform the strenuous work that their first year in Canada demanded. During the first year in the history of Smithville the Griffins were the only residents. Their first thought and labor was to clear sufficient land on which to grow some crops. The first method used was to dig the trees out by the roots, a hard and difficult but effective means of clearing the land. Deer and wild turkey were plentiful and furnished many a tasty meal for the hard-working pioneers. Some of the early settlers used a brush harrow to work up a small patch of land, so that the seed might take root. Others used a three-cornered wooden harrow in which wooden pegs were driven. With these crude implements the land was merely scratched over the surface, but the soil was rich and crops grew, in spite of adverse conditions of cultivation. At a later period the Government sent out iron harrow teeth and log chains to assist the settlers in the cultivation of the land and in hauling the timber. These were much prized implements and were of much greater value than land,



which exchanged hands for a trifle. The crops grown were Indian corn and wild rice. The women learned the art of tanning from the Indians and were able to make the deerskin soft and pliable, and many a garment was made from these skins. Crude moccasins were worn on the feet, and though ill-shaped, were warm and comfortable. As soon as leather was available, every man made shoes for his own family. These were shapeless but comfortable. The women gathered the stalks of the wild rice along the river bank and braided this straw into useful hats and bonnets which were truly a work of art. Light, serviceable, and of neat appearance, they served the need of the time as well and perhaps better, than the millinery creations of our own day. At a later period they raised their own flax, and hemp and crude handlooms and spinning wheels were made.

The clacking loom and humming spinning wheel could be heard in every cabin. Coarse linen was woven and blankets of hemp. Most of the summer clothing was made from the home-grown flax, and these garments were light and strong. The tow or waste product of the flax served a useful purpose, being made into rope and halters. Men's trousers of linen were said to wear like iron and the tablecloths and towels served a useful purpose. These thrifty people worked from sunrise to sunset at their regular daily tasks and then, after the evening meal, the spinning wheels were put in motion, and before the open fire-place mother and daughters worked on the family wardrobe in order that all might be comfortably clad. Their light at first depended largely upon the glow from the fireplace. They also made a crude candle in the following manner: several strands of cotton warp were twisted together, this was placed over a kettle of hot grease which was poured over the wick or dipped; this was allowed to cool and more grease was added until the candle was large enough to serve their purpose as a means of light. Several years later the candle moulds came into use and were as welcome to the average household as a grand piano is today. To strike a light they used a flint, a piece of punk and a steel, striking the flint with the steel produced a spark which ignited the punk. The first matches which were sold in Smithville were retailed at 10 cents each,—it is more than likely that smokers of that day used a coal to light their pipes. Ontario wolves being fond of Canadian sheep, made it difficult to produce wool, but after a time some wool was produced. In the spring the men sheared the sheep and the wool was carded by hand and made into rolls, which the women of the household spun on a large spinning wheel into woollen yarn. This was then woven into full cloth, from which the garments were made, thus the whole process from shearing the sheep, and planting the flax, to the finished garments which they wore, was the result of the skill of their own hands, and was an achievement of which they could be justly proud. By this time some wheat was grown on the few patches of cleared land, and the happy harvesters with sickle in hand went forth to cut the first crop of golden wheat on Canadian soil.

Compared with present methods of harvesting this was a slow method of cutting grain, but from whatever angle we consider the life

and time of these early settlers, we find that their wants and needs were more simple and fewer than our own. We also find that the ability to supply practically all their household needs lie within their own powers. In our own time we can scarcely live a day without a hundred needs being supplied directly or indirectly by others. The great cause of anxiety, unhappiness, and frenzied endeavour is the multiplicity of needs, the complex nature of our social structure, and the growing tendency of all classes to demand more pleasure, more leisure, more comfort and luxury. Take for example the up-to-date house-furnishing establishments whose show-rooms contain hundreds of different pieces of furniture, some useful, some ornamental, and some whose usefulness or beauty we cannot discover. In every other establishment supplying the present demands of men, (I say 'demands', as many of them are not needs), we find the same supply catering to every need, wish, and whim of modern man. The grain was threshed with a flail, every grain being carefully gathered and on the first windy day they proceeded to clean it. As there were no fanning mills at that time a blanket was fastened to two poles and the grain thrown against the blanket. The grain dropped to the ground and the chaff blew away.

The next process was to grind the grain and the first method used was to crush it between two stones, a slow and unsatisfactory way. Soon the "Hominy Block" was introduced, which was made as follows: A hardwood stump four feet through was selected, in the top of which a hollow space was burned, large enough to hold about a bushel of grain. Here the grain was pounded with a wooden 'Plumper' Sometimes a stone on the end of a pole or 'Sweep' took the place of the 'Plumper.' The Hominy Block being unsatisfactory, many of the settlers carried their wheat on their backs, down the Twenty shore to the lake and thence to Niagara Falls, where a windmill was operated. This was a long and hard journey, and required some thought and planning before it was undertaken. The grain was carefully cleaned and placed in a bag, to be carried on the back during the long journey by foot. The wife would prepare a hot wholesome meal for the men, a sort of bread cakes were baked to supply them with food on the journey. Arriving at Niagara Falls the miller's wife would bake enough cakes out of the grist for the return journey. Soon, however, these grists were taken on horseback through a trail to Niagara Village where a grist mill was in operation.

Smith Griffin, the enterprising business head of Richard Griffin's family, had not forgotten the millstones brought from the American Colony, and he now proceeded to build a tread mill, Smithville's first industry, built by the man after whom the village was named. We shall hear more of Smith Griffin later on. Farmers who brought their grists to Smith's mill to be ground were required to furnish the necessary power to turn the stones by putting their oxen on the tread mill.

The year 1788 saw a good harvest and the despair and suffering of the hungry year were dispelled. What a change has taken place since those early days of our Forefathers—a failure of the scanty crops meant almost famine. The land which then contained a few scattered farmers

sowing a few pecks of wheat, has become the greatest wheat exporting country in the world. The exportable surplus of wheat on August 1, 1922 of the principal exporting countries of the world shows Canada with a surplus of 312,000,000 bushels, United States, 305,000,000 bushels; British India, 37,000,000 bushels; Argentina, 20,000,000 bushels; Australia, 33,000,000 bushels, and other countries 29,000,000 bushels. These figures do not include the wheat used by these countries for home consumption.

These men who cut down the forest, opened roads, and pioneered the Canadian wilderness, are the men who made possible this achievement of our Canada of today among the wheat exporting countries of the world. They gave us, however, a greater heritage than wheat—(Bolsheviks can grow wheat)—they gave us a race, sturdy, strong, and loyal, the strength of the British race wherever it is found.

Up to this time, 1788, there were no new settlers in Smithville, but the following year four more families came, one of them bearing the name of Myers, who lived at St. Anns at a later date.

In 1790 eight more settlers came and in 1791 the McColloms came, settling along the north creek on the old McCollom homestead, on which the late Jasper McCollom, a descendant, lived.

Up to this time there were scarcely any roads. The streams were the only highways with here and there a bridle-path, or bush trail. It was often miles to the nearest neighbor, and through forest. The common hardships made these people as brothers, as they had a warm feeling of comradeship, and a settler never asked a fellow pioneer for help without receiving it. There was a feeling of neighborliness, a code of honor a hospitality, the ethics of the pioneer days that has never been equalled or surpassed.

About this time began the system of 'bees' or 'frolics.' There were 'chopping frolics,' 'logging bees,' 'building bees,' 'framing bees,' and 'husking bees.' When a new homestead was to be raised, along the roads and blazed trails came the men of the neighborhood. On such occasions they made merry and feasted on venison, wild turkey, wild fruit pies, and smoking Johnny cake. And what appetites! No one has such an appetite in our day.

We do not breathe the aroma of pine-scented forest, with the crisp snow banked to the sill of our sleeping room window; the air cold and frosty. In 1790 there was from four to five feet of snow and Lake Ontario was frozen over. At such occasions as bees and frolics, the dishes used were usually of wood, being made of white poplar. Little by little these wooden utensils were replaced by pewter, purchased from time to time from Yankee peddlars.

In summing up the life of the very early settler, we may conclude that he lived a life almost entirely self-contained. Equipped with axe, sickle and flail, with spinning wheel and iron kettle, he and his wife grew the wheat, corn and potatoes, made the soap, the candles and the maple sugar, the deerskin shoes and homespun cloth. They had little to buy or sell. The barrels of potash and pearlash, leached out from the



ashes of their hardwood forest clearing, were the chief source of ready money. Transport was very limited. The blazed trail was followed by the corduroy road, built of logs and the most bumpy road that was ever travelled. The pack-horse was followed by the lumbering stage, over these roads. Currency was very limited and barter was the rule. Such were the conditions existing when our forefathers laid the foundation of our native village.

## EARLY GROWTH

### CHAPTER IV.

As previously stated the Griffins located a homestead of 800 acres. At the present time there are living on the Griffin property the following descendants of Richard Griffin, namely, Mr. Isaac Wardell, Mr. W. F. H. Patterson, Mr. John Woodruff Hill.

Let us follow briefly the early activities of some members of this interesting family, the Griffins. Smith Griffin was a younger son of Richard Griffin and was an enterprising young man possessed of considerable business ability. His mother was a Smith from which family he received his christian name. His wife was a sister of Solomon Hill and his sister, Bethiar Griffin, was Solomon Hill's wife. He was the grandfather of the Rev. Wm. S. Griffin, who in 1912, was stationed in Toronto, one of Canada's ablest Methodist ministers.

If we analyze the word *Smithville* we find that it contains the idea of *Smith-Ville* or *Smith-Village*, deriving its name from Smith Griffin. Smith's Village, as we know it in its abbreviated form, becomes Smithville. Smith Griffin was not only a thrifty, capable business man, but a God-fearing citizen of splendid character and reputation for honest dealing. The Griffins soon became one of the most widely known and most highly respected families in District No. Six. I say 'District,' as the Townships were not formed at this time, but were divided into Districts of which North and South Grimsby comprised District No. Six. Smith Griffin in 1810, as previously stated, started a tread mill for grinding wheat. Now anxious to utilize the water of the Twenty Mile Creek, he built a dam to hold back the water and ran his stone mill by this power. It was no longer necessary that the farmers' oxen should furnish the power to turn the stones. Thus we see another step in the development of milling. Many changes and improvements were to follow before we could have the modern equipped mill of which Smithville can now boast. But Smith was taking a step in the right direction. His mill was located near the sight of the present mill. The next enterprise in which he became engaged was that of a saw mill which he built across the Twenty from his grist mill and near the sight of the Samuel Woodlan foundry but nearer the stream. This was also operated by water power. This saw-mill supplied the lumber with which log buildings were replaced or improved and was the beginning of the construction of more modern homes in the locality. He also started an ashery which was the most important industry of that day in rural communities. He manufactured soda and shipped it by the barrel to Montreal. At this time Smith and Ned Griffin started a general store in Smithville, the only one in the village for several years to follow. Thanel and Isaiah helped Smith to operate the two mills and Ned the store. The farmers of the district sold their pork and beef to the Griffins in exchange for the goods they required, a form of barter, which was practiced by the fur companies in trading with the Indians, and a system used largely in rural

districts at this early time before currency came into general use. The large merchants controlled trade, exchange, and were the bankers of the country. The Griffins sent these products by sleigh to Montreal, bringing a load of goods back for the store. The return trip occupied six weeks' time. Calico which cost a shilling in Montreal, sold for four shillings in Smithville. Considering the distance which was required to haul these goods, the price was not exorbitant. At a later period sailing vessels came from Montreal to points along Lake Ontario from which shipment to and from Montreal were made. It was then that Smith Griffin cut a road through the forest to the Thirty mountain, to facilitate the transfer of his goods to and from the lake.

As roads opened up Smith also started a branch store in Canboro. The clerks in the Smithville store for a time were Abishia Morse and Captain Waddel. Ned at this time became a farmer and settled on what afterwards became the Joe Trembley place, at the end of Canboro Street, where Mr. Hanson Gracey now lives.

While Smith had these several businesses in operation, and controlled practically all the trade of the district, financial disaster was overtaking him. After sustaining heavy losses he and his family moved to Brantford, leaving the village which his thrift and perseverance had built, and settled on a two hundred acre farm. It was here that Smith Griffin died. All that remains in Smithville as a memorial of her first merchant and industrial leader, the son of her first pioneer family, is the village name and the memory in the hearts of her citizens of the sterling qualities of one of her first sons.

Richard Griffin and his wife, Smith's father and mother, spent the remainder of their days in Smithville, having raised a family of eleven children who were indeed a credit to their name. These sturdy old Loyalist Pioneers were buried in Smithville's first cemetery, situated near where the Post Office now stands on Griffin Street.

Edward Griffin, or Ned, as he was known in his own time continued to farm in Smithville and was a useful respected citizen. He died at the age of 98 and was buried in the Methodist Cemetery at Smithville. His tombstone still marks his resting place and the inscription reads as follows:—

*Edward Griffin, died August 13th, 1860. Age 98 years.*

I trust that this brief story of Edward Griffin's life, and the fact that he was Smithville's first white inhabitant, that he felled the first tree, chose the village site, built the first house and was its first occupant, that he cleared the first acre of land, lived his entire life from early manhood in Smithville, was a God-fearing, honest Loyalist, I say, I trust that these facts will inspire the citizens of our native village, and his, to raise a monument, over his last resting place, as a memorial of his work and life. It is fitting that the name of his brother, Smith, also appear on such a memorial as the builder of the village and the one after whom it was named.



## THE WARDELLS

### CHAPTER V.

In 1734, Joseph Wardell was born in Carnarvon, Wales. In 1755, being of age, he journeyed to London and joined the British Navy in which he served for seven years, after which he came to New York. Shortly after his arrival in America he settled on a farm in east Jersey, where he married Elizabeth Parker, a native of that place. For twenty years he and his good wife labored in Jersey, during which time the Revolutionary War had been fought, he and his two sons having fought with the Loyalists, one son, Goliah, being killed during the struggle. In 1785 not wishing to endure longer the persecution of the Americans, he and his family migrated to Canada. They came in a large covered wagon drawn by six horses and drove their cattle before them. Crossing the Niagara River at Niagara Village, as did the Griffins two years later, they followed the lake shore, crossed the Jordan and located a four hundred acre homestead two miles west of the river, having spent six months in making the journey. Joseph lived and labored on this homestead for ten years and died in 1794 at the age of sixty-one years. At his death his son Isaac received two hundred acres of the original homestead. Having a farm in his own name, Isaac now was in need of a wife, and he obtained one under rather romantic circumstances. Isaac was an enthusiastic hunter and trapper. One day, with a pack of traps on his back, he was out on one of his hunting expeditions, and following the river to Smithville, he came unexpectedly upon a bright-eyed, rosy-cheeked lass on a fishing expedition of her own. She was fishing for fish, and Isaac was hunting for game; they both made a catch. This chance acquaintance ripened into friendship and later into love, and thus a day came in 1796 when a wedding was held at the home of Richard Griffin in Smithville, when Mary (Polly) Griffin, his daughter, became the bride of Isaac Wardell. At that wedding there would be Isaiah Griffin, Smith Griffin, and his wife (Solomon Hill's sister), Edward Griffin, Solomon Hill and his wife Bethiar Hill (Richard Griffin's daughter), Solomon Hill's sons, Willian and Abraham, the brothers and sisters of Isaac Wardell and also younger members of both families. Their wedding trip consisted of a walk from Smithville, along the Twenty Creek to the lake, and up the shore to their new home. They were blessed with ten children. These were the days of large families. Richard Griffin had eleven children, Solomon Hill had twelve, Isaac Wardell ten, and Nathaniel Hill nine children. Aunt Polly Wardell, as she was known by her relatives, carried her first baby Solomon in her arms from her home on the lake shore to her parents' home in Smithville on a visit. For many years Uncle Isaac and Aunt Polly lived on the old homestead and finally moved near Smithville, where they lived for fifteen years, after which they moved to Smoky Hollow, near St. Catharines. As they grew old, they gave up their Smoky Hollow home and went to live with their son Isaiah at Merritt Settlement. Aunt Polly, like many

dear old women of her time, enjoyed smoking her pipe. Some of the younger women of those early days learned to smoke from lighting the pipe for mother or grandmother. On one of her visits to the home of her nephew, Nathaniel Hill, she laid her pipe on the window sill and a live coal fell upon the sill and burned a hole into it. This may still be seen in the old cottage home now occupied by Nathaniel Hill's son, John W. Hill, at Smithville. Aunt Polly was born in Tarrytown, New York State, in 1778. She died in 1873 at the age of ninety-five. She was a kind-hearted, Christian woman, who lived to a ripe old age, and saw many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, grow up, upon whom she bestowed her love and care. Isaiah, the third son of Isaac, and Aunt Polly married Elizabeth Tinline Culp. They had three children, Cyrus, Jim and Isaac. The latter is still living in Smithville, at the age of ninety-one years, Smithville's second oldest citizen, and the oldest living descendant of the Griffin family. He has been a life-long member of the Disciple Church, able and active in its councils. At the Wardell reunion from a well-stored memory, he gave the descendants of Isaac Wardell, stirring accounts of the life and work of their forefathers. He was for many years a successful drover and farmer. In 1855 he married Isabell Meridith and they lived together for sixty-five years. Reminiscing, Mr. Wardell says "The year following the Crimean War, wheat dropped from two dollars to seventy-five cents per bushel." Thus we see that the conditions following the World War are but a repetition of those following the great struggle in the Crimean. He said further: "I can remember when fifty acres of land changed hands for a pound of tobacco." In those days he said coffins were made by cabinet makers for four dollars. A neighbor's wagon supplied the hearse and neighbors' spades dug the grave. Mr. Wardell is hale and hearty at the age of ninety-one, has a splendid memory, and his intellect is as clear as that of most men half his age. It is a real pleasure to spend a few hours with him in conversation, for he loves to talk of the old days. He is without doubt, the best-posted man, living, on the history of Smithville, and her pioneer settlers.

## RICHARD THE SIXTH AND HARVEY GRIFFIN

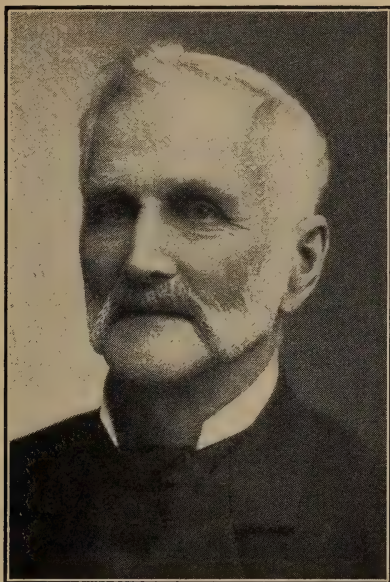
### CHAPTER VI.

As we review the lives of some of the later generation of Smithville citizens, we recall many whose fathers or grandfathers were the pioneers of the district. They were hardy, staunch and true as the giant oaks which fell before the razor edge of their axes, swung with arms strong and willing. The sons of these pioneers are now tilling well-cleared, cultivated fields, with modern machinery, and modern methods of agriculture. But occasionally we meet one who has been but slightly influenced by modern thought and methods, a farmer of the old school, who not only continues to use many of the methods of his forefathers and emulates their sterling qualities of heart and head, men whose code of honor, homespun philosophy, and rural simplicity, might well be followed by many men of our own time.

One of such type lived near Smithville, on the old homestead farm situated half a mile from the village. The house was built in old cottage style and was surrounded by honeysuckle and lilacs. The interior was laid out in large rooms, with high ceilings, each room containing a large fire-place, before which James Harvey Griffin, nicknamed "Harvey Dick," and his ancestors had toasted their shins and frozen their backs for over a century. The furniture was old-fashioned, which gave the place an added charm. The greatest charm of the place, however, was Harvey, its sole occupant, a bachelor of medium height, with a body round and plump and a grey beard which formed a half-moon frame for a round, smiling, kindly face, with two mild blue eyes which blinked merrily. A word as to his ancestry will be of interest to the reader. Richard Griffin, Smithville's first citizen, referred to in former chapters, had a son, the youngest of the family whose name was also Richard. His son was Richard the 6th, in a direct line and he was the father of James Harvey Griffin. Adjoining Harvey's house was an orchard, in which grew strawberry Pippins, Seek-no-further, and the yellowest harvest apples I have ever seen. There was also a huge black cherry tree in the orchard, the strength of whose every limb I have tested, and beyond the orchard was a hundred acre farm, dotted here and there with hickory trees, completes the picture. The old gentleman was a friend to all the small boys. A timid knock at the door and a polite request gave them access to the apples or cherries in their seasons, or all the hickory nuts they cared to gather.

One cold winter day a fire broke out in the dwelling of a poor family in the village. It was the home of an old couple, both past three score and ten years. Attracted by the excitement of the fire, boy-like, I was present. The building was still burning when I arrived, but I learned that James Harvey Griffin had been there already, with his team of sorrel colts which he always drove with halters and bits, and usually at a gallop. The colts were hitched to a big jumper sleigh, with a painted box and curved sides which made it resemble a huge old-fashioned cradle.





ROBERT MURGATROYD



Harvey usually sat in the bottom of this box, which was partly filled with straw, and called at his team, as they galloped on a tight rein, "Hip Julee," "Hip, Hip, Julee." He had brought his sympathy for this old couple wrapped up in a bag of flour, a ham and a load of wood. I have seen him leave the village store for home with a big bag of oranges and before he had reached the end of the street this bag was empty. He had met friends of his boyhood, he had met children, and the oranges that he intended to take home had faded away, but his smile had broadened and his eyes had a brighter twinkle. Dear, generous, kind-hearted old man; he was the worthy son of a worthy sire. Why do I call his father, Richard the 6th, a worthy sire. We shall see. Yankee Jones was ill with an incurable disease. His family had little with which to provide fuel and food. A heavy snow-storm visited the district after which the thermometer fell several degrees. Richard Griffin and his son Harvey were in the village and Richard had a burning curiosity to peek into Yankee Jones's barn. Whether Harvey knew the cause of this curiosity we cannot say, but at any rate, they stole unobserved to the back of Yankee's barn and peeked in. It was here that Yankee kept his wood, when he had any. A few sticks only could be seen by the observers. Richard hurried the team home, but they did not stop at the barn as usual, but went on to the bush at the back of the farm. Here a generous load of wood was piled on the sleighs and Harvey was sent back to Yankee Jones's barn, and not empty handed. In the morning Yankee's family discovered that they had good hard wood for the severe weather that followed. Richard Griffin had this habit of peeking into the woodsheds of poor people, in severe weather, or in cases of sickness. I strongly believe that these two men were peeking into more than an empty woodshed in these visits; I believe they were peeking into Heaven. Many a bag of potatoes and of flour found their way into the kitchens of poor homes. When Richard and his son measured grain for sale they rounded the measure and then threw on a shovelful to make sure that there was a bushel. I heard a man of seventy years of age, still a resident of Smithville, speaking of Richard Griffin, say: "He was the finest man that ever lived in Smithville." The philosophy of these men as they lived it may be summed up as follows:—

*'A man's word should be as good as his bond.'*

*'A true neighbor is one who knows how, and when, to lend a helping hand.'*

*'A handshake should be a warm clasp, prompted by a warm heart, rather than a limp formality.'*

*'The foundation of refinement is an inherited gentility rather than an acquired polish.'*



## DEACON PAGE'S ELOPMENT

### CHAPTER VII

At the Village of St. Anns, situated three miles east of Smithville along the Jordan River, lived Jacob Fisher, of Pennsylvania, Dutch origin, and his wife, who was a Cline. He ruled his household with an iron will and his word was law in his home. Like the average Penn Dutchman he had strict religious views and habits and believed in the admonition 'Do not,' 'Thou shalt not,' as a cure for all the problems of life. His family were expected to obey his every will and whim and while he believed that they did so, they on the other hand had no intention of regarding his law as final. He had three sons, Peter, James and John and all three loved hunting and fishing better than working in their father's tannery. They were good hunters each of them being a splendid shot. These men who were my father's uncles, used to visit at my home about twice a year, staying from two to three days. Those were great events in my boyhood life, as these old men lived in their past and the conversation was of early days, and of their early life. Deer and bear stories held me in rapt attention. These three brothers at this time were all over seventy years of age. One of them lived to be past eighty and the other two over ninety years of age. They were strong, stalwart sons of pioneer days who retained their health and mental powers at these advanced ages. Jacob Fisher also had three daughters, Mary (Polly), Sarah and Katherine. It was said that these girls would never marry as Jacob would not allow the young men to keep company with them. No one seemed to be the right one to court old Jacob's daughters, and few got the chance to do so unless it was unknown to their father.

These girls were full of life and loved the out-of-doors, the forest, and all things of Nature. They could handle a gun or ride a horse without a saddle and at a gallop. Here were six young people with blood coursing through their veins, living a life in tune with nature. Jacob their father, however, could not reconcile this coursing of young blood to his idea of fatherly authority and religious piety. He, like many a father of certain races and times, and even some of our own time, did not or would not grasp the truth, 'that young blood must have its course,' and that if the bit is kept too tight at home the young will have their blowing off of steam, away from home; and here begins deception. Their recreation and amusement is without home guidance, as the home is kept in the dark as to these doings. But these young Fishers were by no means spoiled in this way. Their pleasures were harmless and natural, and had no evil results in after years.

On what is now the Jerry Taylor property then known as Middleport, lived one Samuel Page, a Taylor, a down-East Yankee of English parentage, and his wife, Hannah Cornell. They had seven children, one son being James Dowlin Page, born in the United States in the year 1801. James was serving his apprenticeship in the Tannery of Jacob Fisher at St. Anns, being a fellow worker with the three Fisher boys.

Jim Page, a lad of twenty, spent much of his leisure time with the Fisher boys and they became warm friends. In due time he became acquainted with the three Fisher girls. Mary, or Polly as she was generally known, with her rosy cheeks and happy disposition, appealed to the romantic side of young Jim's nature. He encountered the usual opposition of Jacob Fisher, her father, and like the other suitors, had to meet Polly secretly, or at best, very rarely with her father's knowledge and consent. A regular correspondence was kept up between these two, with Polly's brother John acting as mail carrier. Many a happy evening was spent by the young people of which Jacob knew very little. Polly's sisters, as well as her brothers, were fond of Jim, and made it as convenient as possible for these young people to meet. Soon the friendship of Jim and Polly ripened into love, and Polly's father heard from time to time of frequent meetings which aroused his suspicion and increased his antagonism, and at the same time his watchfulness.

He gathered together all of Polly's best clothes, and belongings and as a precaution, locked them where she could not obtain them. It was then that Polly and Jim planned to outwit the old gentleman. Polly her sister Sarah, and Jim attended a religious meeting, and as the three slowly walked homeward, Jim appeared sad and in a reflective mood. "Polly," he said, "for some reason your father does not like me, and is strongly opposed to our friendship, while I do not know the cause of his opposition, I do not feel that we should longer oppose his will. While your friendship has been one of the brightest spots in my life, yet we must remember that Jacob Fisher is your father and his wishes must be considered." "Yes, Jim, while I feel that all you say may be true, you surely know that father opposes his daughters going out with any of the young men who feel disposed to be friendly with them. Do you really mean, Jim, that we must no longer be friends?"

"Not just that, my dear Polly. I trust we may always be friends, and I appreciate the friendly co-operation of your brothers and sisters. I trust that we shall all remain friends, but I think it is for the best that you and I should part as close friends, and that I should meet you as I do your sisters, as an acquaintance only."

"Perhaps," said Sarah, jokingly, "it is Jim's wish as well as father's that you should adopt such a plan."

"God forbid," said Jim. "I am not following my heart now, but my head. I feel that these secretive meetings are very unsatisfactory."

"Well, Jim," replied Polly, "you know best. Perhaps, after all, we are wrong in opposing father's wishes."

"Let this be our last secret meeting then, Polly dear," said Jim with his arm about her waist, and a tremor in his voice.

Thus they parted, and Sarah was the only one who actually shed any tears that night. The following day when opportunity offered, Sarah informed her father of what had taken place the previous night, and Jacob was well pleased. He now unlocked Polly's clothes and belongings and fully believed that Jim had given her up.

He became less watchful of Polly, whose plans were carefully laid. It was wash day and Polly's turn to perform that task. She had a twinkle in her eye and yet at times a serious expression might have been discovered in her countenance had anyone been observing her closely.

The clothes were hung out to dry and after the evening meal, Polly proceeded to bring them in from the lines.

An armful was carried in and taken upstairs, after which she quietly crept into her room where sundry garments and belongings were piled in hasty confusion. Raising the window softly she tossed an armful of clothing out of it. After this rather unusual performance, she went down the stairs and out to the lines to gather in more of the morning's washing. This she took upstairs and repeated the former proceeding at the open window. Below this window was a young man whose heart was thumping so loudly that he could hear the pulsations, and he imagined that everyone in the Fisher home could hear it distinctly. He was sure that every sound he heard was Jacob Fisher approaching from the house. Listen! What was that sound? Were the well-laid plans to be frustrated at the last minute? He crouched in the shadow of a big bush and waited. Soon a cat was seen scurrying across the yard, and Jim breathed again. He was sure he had never heard so many sounds real or imaginary in so short a time before. And yet, what was but a few minutes, seemed hours to him. The clothes which Polly had tossed out of the window had been received by his waiting arms, all except a pair of shoes which caught in the branches of a tall lilac bush, and remained to tell the tale of their departure. Jim hurried home with his bundle of clothes, having crossed the bridge and followed the road to his father's house. Polly was to cross the ice of the Twenty Creek and join him at his home a mile and a half distant.

When the young man arrived home, the first question which he asked his mother was as to whether Polly had yet arrived. His mother, ever ready for a bit of fun, shook her head, and Jim was about to rush back to find her, fearing she might have been overtaken, or that she might have broken through the ice. His mother told him to place Polly's belongings in a certain closet, and as he opened the door out stepped Polly, with a smiling face.

Jim owned a horse, his only possession; another was borrowed from a neighbor. Both were saddled and bridled and waiting for the young couple to start on their journey. Mounting, they rode to Niagara Falls, N.Y., where they were married. Jim was twenty-one years of age and Polly was eighteen. After the marriage ceremony they returned to Canada, staying at a tavern until morning.

Jacob Fisher had the surprise of his life on the following morning, when the tell-tale shoes were discovered hanging to the lilac bush and Polly's absence was discovered. Taking his shotgun from its holder he strutted about, declaring that he would shoot man, beast or the devil.

The people in the village were glad to hear that one of Jacob's daughters had been captured, and the distillery rolled a barrel of whiskey



out of its doors and invited the men to help themselves, and many that day drank Polly Fisher's good health and happiness.

Upon their return, Jim traded his horse for a team of oxen, after which he took up one hundred acres of land at Burlington. He worked with a surveying party and cultivated his land with his team of oxen, and with Polly's help they prospered. About this time Polly's sister Katherine became ill and died. The family were afraid to approach the father about Polly's return, but Jim Page's mother did not fear the old man and she suggested to him that he send for Polly without asking Jim to return.

The result was that Jim and Polly both came to the funeral. Jacob relented somewhat and decided that he would give Polly a present. I presume he did not call it a wedding present; it was just a present, a sort of peace offering. He said: "I am going to make Polly a present of a sheep as soon as I get its wool sheared off." A short time later Jim Page and his wife came to Smithville, where they purchased three hundred acres of land near the Twenty Mile Creek on which a son and son-in-law, namely, Calvin Page and John Davis, Sr., now live.

Here he started a tannery, a shoe shop where several shoe makers were employed and a blacksmith shop, as well as farming his land. About this time Jim was made a Deacon in the Baptist Church at Beamsville, where he and his family attended divine service, and he was known during the remainder of his life as 'Deacon Page.' Old settlers still speak of him as 'Deacon.' This young raw-boned Down-East Yankee, who had dared to snatch away one of Jacob Fisher's daughters, prospered. He had twenty horses, a good flock of sheep, and a herd of cattle besides his business ventures.

Jacob Fisher, his father-in-law, relented, and often visited Jim and his family when attending quarterly meeting in the old Methodist Church. He used to weep and apologize to his son-in-law for the way he had treated him as a young man, but Jim said, "I'll just let him cry a bit; it will do him good."

Jacob spoke of Jim as one of the best sons he had, and the happiest relationship existed between the families during the remainder of their days. A tribute to the life of Jim Page was paid by a pioneer who knew him well in these words: "He was a loyal Canadian citizen, who always said he loved the land of his adoption. He was a grand man whose encouragement was worth more than some people's money. When he spoke in public he was on the side of justice and fair play. He was a jolly, christian man, congenial and good company for young and old. He was most cordial in his home, joked with his family and provided in abundance. He was a loving father, but had a stern look and rebuke which commanded respect and obedience. I loved him as a father and yet no blood tie bound us together." Such is the tribute paid to Deacon Page by one who knew him as few men did.

Jim and Polly raised three sons, Alfred, the father of the writer, Calvin, who still lives on the old homestead, and James, who as a young man went to the State of Kansas, where he died. His descendants still

live in the United States. Deacon Page also had several daughters, warm-hearted, christian women, who are all dead but one, Mrs. Calvin Patterson, now over eighty years of age, who lives at Smithville.

When Deacon Page purchased the old home at Smithville, many Chippewa Indians roamed the forests. They were spoken of as Grand River Indians, who had a trail from Smithville to the Grand River. The Deacon allowed these Indians to remain on the uncleared land, but as time went on and the land became cleared nearer to the back of the farm he had to ask them to move on. They were peaceable and quiet and never gave him any trouble. Jim's mother who outlived two husbands, her second one, a House, lived in a separate home near her son on his farm. Here she died. Besides raising a large family the Deacon took two poor boys to raise, one Eli Doan and the other Jim Parker, who was of low mentality.

At the time of the American War Canadian men of the latter type were taken over the line, innocent of the purpose of their journey. Here they induced them to become intoxicated in which condition they were signed up in the army and when they sobered up the following day they discovered that they were soldiers in the American army. It is said that these heartless recruiters received as high as six hundred dollars for the men they secured in this way. Jim Parker was allured in this way into the American army and went through the campaign without a scratch. He received his discharge and a roll of bills which he soon gave away. He returned to his home at Deacon Page's and furnished a great deal of fun for the men about the place. With a stick for a gun, Jim would show his audience how they charged in the army and it was well to keep out of his way, as he made it as real as possible. Fifty-five years ago July 1st, Dominion Day was celebrated in Smithville for the first time, and among other features they had a Calithumpian parade. Jim Parker had a dread of Fenians and the boys were ever playing tricks on him in which Fenians usually figured. To start Jim for home at his fastest gait all that was necessary was to call 'Fenians.' On the evening of the celebration, Jim was at the home of Nathaniel Hill, across the Twenty Creek from Deacon Page's. One of the boys still dressed in his Calithumpian costume and carrying a shot-gun, came to the door of Mr. Hill's home and asked if a man by the name of Parker was there. The girl who opened the door, scenting the fun, said that he was. "The D—— fool," said Jim. "Well, I want him," said the man with the gun, and Jim bolted for the back door, and ran for home. When visitors were leaving Deacon Page's home Jim would say, "Well, give my best respects to the folks at home." Another character who worked for Deacon Page was a Scotch shoemaker, who took pride in his name, which he said was William Maxwell Gordon Drummond, which left no doubt as to his nationality. It was said that he had been an old sea pirate. He died in Smithville and was buried in the Methodist cemetery. His epitaph, which he wrote himself, was as follows:—

*My name, my country, what are they to thee,  
Whether high or low my pedigree.  
Suffice it stranger, thou seest a tomb.  
Thou knowest it hides—no matter whom.*

And so Polly and Jim lived happily, surrounded by their children, absorbed in useful labor, and devoted to a christian service, until Jim reached the age of sixty, when he crossed the Silent River, leaving behind an unblemished name to his posterity.

His wife lived to the age of 83. Polly Fisher, an aged widow and mother, peacefully slept away, sitting in her old armchair.



## FIRST COUNCIL MEETINGS

### CHAPTER VIII.

Before recording the minutes of the first council meetings held in North and South Grimsby a few words of explanation will enable the reader to better understand the records, as they have been handed down from early days. In 1790 the Townships of North and South Grimsby did not exist, but the area covered by these two Townships was then known as District or Township number six. The different districts up to this time were designated by number. The reader will understand that all resolutions and appointments which are recorded applied to district No. 6 as a whole and that Smithville and Grimsby villages both came under these regulations. It will also be observed that the appointments were made to citizens of both villages. Pioneer names familiar to the citizens of Grimsby and Smithville will be found. Where these meetings were held we are not told, except that some of them were held at the house of John Green, who came from New Jersey in 1782, and lived on Lot 10, Concession 1. Livestock in those early days was allowed to run at large and it was necessary as a result of this that each owner of stock have a private mark or brand. This mark was recorded in the books of the Clark so that stray animals could be claimed by their rightful owners. We give below the minutes of these first meetings held in District Number Six. We may add that the penmanship in this early record is excellent and the ink used has retained its color and is easily readable.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Township Number Six this fifth day of April, 1790 at the house of John Green, according to an order from court and an advertisement for that purpose, the following persons were elected into the offices annexed to their names and presented to the Honorable Court for their confirmation:—

John Moore—Clark.

John Beamer—Constable.

Levi Lewis—Overseer of Poor.

John Green, Levi Lewis—Overseers of Roads.

John Pettitt, Levi Lewis—Viewers of fences and prisers of damage.

At the same time a vote was passed by a majority that no fence be left more than five inches between the rail to the fifth rail.

At a meeting held on the third day of April, 1792, at the house of John Green, a subscription was signed for wolf scalps and the money to be paid to Nathaniel Pettitt to pay out for scalps.

Entered at the request of Benjamin Wilcox and David Palmer, town wardens, a settlement they had the 30th day of July, 1796, with John Moore and Jacob Glover concerning two hogs sold in 1795.

one hog sold for £1-16-0.

one hog sold for £0-18-0.

A meeting held the fifth day of March, 1798. A vote was passed that every inhabitant shall pay one shilling for every wolf taken and killed in this town, the one shilling to be collected by the collector and paid to the town wardens, they to pay the same to persons who kill the wolf in town.

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At a meeting of the inhabitants of the Township of Grimsby, held the first day of March, 1802, the following persons were elected:—

Andrew Pettitt—Clark.

Edward Griffin, Benjamin Bell—Assessors.

Smith Griffin—Collector.

John Pettitt, Robert Nelles, Sqrs.—Town Wardens.

Hogs were to run at large.

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NOTE—(It will be noted from the above record that District No. 6 has ceased to be known as such and that a Township has been formed, namely, the Township of Grimsby).

In 1807 horses were not to run at large.

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Posted at the request of William Lawrence, this third day of December, 1810, two brindle cows, both white faces, one marked with a crop off both ears, likewise two spring calves with them.

ANDREW PETTITT.

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Posted at the request of J. Pettitt, this fifteenth day of January, 1814, a strayed hog marked with a crop off the right ear, which came to his place about the middle of December last.

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Meeting in the interests of the Township of Grimsby, the fourth day of January, 1830, the following were elected:—

Daniel Palmer—Town Clark.

Lewis Whitney, John Camp—Assessors.

Ralph Walker, Ezekiah Smith, William Fisher, Dave Freeland, Abram Meridith, Henry Nixon, John Cline, Henry Smith, Nathaniel Griffin, Eli White, John Beem, Peter Buckbee—Overseers of Roads.

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Posted at the request of William Nelles, stray steer, came to him about last September, 1833, two years old, crop off left ear, and half-penny under the right, natural color red.

DAVE PALMER.

The above steer was returned to the owner.

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1833—Cattle and strays as before, horses not to run at large. Pigs not to run at large until four months old, provided they do their neighbors any injury.

## MARKS:—

Andrew Hunter's mark is the form of a Poplar leaf on both ears.

William Moor's mark is a square notch on the right ear.

William Canada's mark is a half crop on the upper side of the left ear.

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From these brief records we learn of the things which concerned the people of these early times, how simple their needs were and how few the activities of the municipalities.



## THE FIRST FOUR PARLIAMENTS OF UPPER CANADA.

### CHAPTER IX.

In 1788, Lord Dorchester, Governor-General of Canada, whose headquarters were at Montreal, issued a proclamation by which he gave notice of forming new districts. Western Canada was at that time formed into four districts. The name of Nassau was given to the district between the River Trent on the east and to a line extending from Long Point north, for the western boundary, which included the Niagara Peninsula. To the District of Nassau was appointed a Judge, Sheriff and other officers, and at once the new settlers emerged from a marshall-like law, which they had never liked, to all the rights of Civil law, as administered in a Court of Common Pleas. Honorable Robert Hamilton of Queenston was first Judge of the District of Nassau, and was looked upon by the pioneers with great respect, for the many good qualities which he possessed. The punishments for committing crime were various. Hanging was the penalty for certain crimes, including felony; but by far the most common punishment was banishment to the United States, which was much dreaded. Whipping on the bare back and imprisonment were meted out to criminals, but the new settlers were, with few exceptions, a law-abiding people. On July 8th, 1792, Colonel John Graves Simcoe was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada. In 1795 Governor Simcoe named the Capital of Upper Canada, Newark (now Niagara Village), after Newark, New Jersey, with which he had been acquainted during the Revolutionary War. Let us review briefly the history of this little Capital. Up to this time (1795) the place had been variously called Lennox, Nassau, Buttersburg, and West Niagara. The name 'Niagara' being generally used of the Fort across the River. During the American Revolution, Fort Niagara on the American side of the Niagara River was held by the English troops, and the sight of the Village of Niagara served as a general camping place for troops, who under various leaders, made excursions into the settlements of the Americans. Colonel John Butler, with his Rangers, Captain Joseph Brant, (Thayendanegea), the chosen leader of the Six Nation Indians, with Sir John Johnson, and other prominent persons, made Niagara their headquarters for a long time during the days of the Revolution. During this time only a few log houses were built where Niagara now stands. The Officers quarters and buildings for other purposes being within the Fort on the opposite side of the River. For those who visit this historic spot from time to time, it is well to remember that Fort Niagara is now situated on American soil, near the River and can be plainly seen from the Canadian side.; while Fort Missassaga and Fort George are on the Canadian side. At the close of the Revolution in 1784, Butlers Rangers, 444 in number, were disbanded here and many of the erected houses given them. When Governor Simcoe in 1792 made Newark the Capital of Upper Canada the little Village promised to be one of the future large cities of Upper Canada. Vessels from Lower Canada brought their

cargoes here, which served as the general depot for the goods which were carried from this point and Queenston around the Niagara Falls to Lake Erie. Business was brisk and settlers from forty and fifty miles inland made it their headquarters for procuring their supplies. The first parliament of Upper Canada was called on the 18th of September, 1792, by Governor Simcoe at Newark, and continued in session until October 15th of the same year. Grimsby Village has the honor of sending a member, Mr. Pettitt, to the first Parliament of Upper Canada. His Excellency, Governor Simcoe, predicted that the Village of Grimsby would, in a few years, become a county town, as it had many natural advantages. This place, unfortunately, like Newark, was not destined to become a large town or city. There is a great deal of controversy as to where the first Parliament of Upper Canada was held. Navy Hall, the residence of Governor Simcoe, is considered the most likely place. There is but one of the buildings which comprised Navy Hall still standing, and this sadly neglected. Goldwin Smith said that it deserved to be venerated by Ontario as much as Rome venerated the hut of Romulus. Chief Justice Powell says that this first session of Parliament met in a canvass house. While it is true that Governor Simcoe purchased the canvass houses used by Banks and Solander in Captain Cook's voyage, 1768-1771, and that these were set up in Newark, it is very unlikely that they were used by Parliament when Navy Hall was available and much more suitable. These canvass houses were set up at York, now Toronto, in 1796, and were used there for a time as the home for Parliament, until a building could be secured, as the removal to York was hurriedly made. Dr. Duncan Campbell Scott claims that the first Parliament was held in Free Masons Hall, while the Canadian Law Times for 1913 states that the later sessions of this Parliament, 1793-1796, were held in additions to the barracks of Butlers Rangers. The form of government for the Provinces was moulded on that of Britain:—A Governor-General and for each Province, a Lieutenant-Governor; and Executive Council; a Legislative Council and a Legislative Assembly corresponding generally to the Crown; the Cabinet of Ministers; the House of Lords, and the House of Commons. The Province was divided into nineteen Counties, from which sixteen members of the Legislative Assembly were to be elected by the people. The Legislative Council consisted of not fewer than seven members who, as well as the members of the Executive Council, were appointed by the Crown. The general election for the first Legislative Assembly took place in August, 1792, and Parliament met on the 17th of September. The constituencies had then a population which has been placed at about 25,000. The member of First Durham, York and First Lincoln, 1792-1796, was Nathaniel Pettitt of Grimsby. The first Ontario Parliament held five sessions within the four years of its full term at Newark. Copies of these early sessions of the Legislature were ordered to be printed. These disappeared at an early date, as is evident from the fact that no copies were known to be in existence in 1855, when the manuscript copies in London, England, were copied by Mr. Mayer for the Canadian Government. But there is a break in London,

the journals of the Legislative Assembly for the years 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1809, 1813 and 1815 being missing. In explanation, it is suggested that if copies were sent from Canada to London in the usual course for these years that the vessels carrying them may have been captured by French men-of-war. It is also suggested that these copies may have reached London and have been lost by the authorities there. For this reason the copies which we have, should be the more highly treasured by Canadians and more especially by those of Ontario. All references made in this chapter to these early sessions are taken from copies of the records in London, England, and may be considered reliable. The first Parliament being in session on the seventeenth of September, 1792, his Excellency made the following speech to the Legislative Council and House of Assembly: "I have summoned you together under the authority of an Act of Parliament of Great Britain passed in the last year, which has established the British Constitution and all the forms which secure and maintain it in this distant country. The wisdom and beneficence of our Most Gracious Sovereign and the British Parliament have been eminently proved, not only in imparting to us the same form of government, but in securing the benefit of the provisions which guard this memorable Act so that the blessings of our invaluable constitution thus protected and amplified, we hope will be extended to the remotest posterity. The great and momentous trusts and duties, which have been committed to the representatives of this Province in a degree infinitely beyond whatever, till this period have distinguished in any other Colony have originated from the British nation upon a just consideration of the energy and hazard with which the inhabitants have so conspicuously supported and defended the British Constitution. The natural advantages of the Province of Upper Canada are inferior to none on this side of the Atlantic; there can be no separate interest throughout its whole extent. The British form of Government has prepared the way for its speedy colonization and I trust that your fostering care will improve the favorable situation, and that a numerous and agricultural people will speedily take possession of a soil and climate which, under the British laws and munificence with which His Majesty has granted the lands of the Crown, offer such manifest and peculiar encouragements." The House adjourned till ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

For the district of Prince Edward and Adolphustown, one Philip Dorland was elected to this Parliament. He was a Quaker and discovered after being elected that it would be necessary for him to take the oath, before he could vote in Parliament. From religious scruples he asked Parliament to be relieved from taking the oath by affirming in place of the oath. It was ordered that the Speaker direct a new writ to be issued for the said county and district, and a new election was held and Philip Dorland was not allowed to sit in Parliament. Friday, the 21st September, 1792, prayers by the Rev. Addison, appointed chaplain. Mr. Jones moved for leave to bring in a Bill to establish trials by jury. Leave was given. The committee appointed to regulate and assess the sums to be paid as salaries to the several officers employed by the House



reported that they had gone into the consideration of the sums to be paid to the said officer as salaries, and allowed:—To the Clerk of the House ninety-one pounds five shillings, Quebec currency, per annum. To the Sergeant-at Arms of the House forty-five pounds twelve shillings and six pence, Quebec currency, per annum. To the Door-keeper of the House ten pounds, Quebec currency, per annum. September the 25th, 1792, a Bill to encourage the destroying of wolves was read the first time. Thursday, the 23rd of September, a Bill to authorize town meetings was read the second time. Read the third time a Bill to establish trials by jury in the Province of Upper Canada. A bill to regulate the toll to be taken in mills was read the first time. Tuesday, the 25th June, the House in committee, Mr. Spencer in the chair went into the consideration of the Bill to prevent the further introduction of Slaves and to limit the term of contract for servitude within this Province. It may not be generally known to the people of the County of Lincoln that slavery to a certain extent existed here, but such is the case. When Great Britain took Canada from the French they found slavery existing which had been introduced about the beginning of the eighteenth century. About the year 1784 a census of the slaves was taken in Lower Canada, and the number at that time was found to be 304. Some of the U.E. Loyalists who came to Canada after the Revolution owned slaves and brought them with them, and it was looked upon as legal to hold them. Slavery was abolished by an Act of Parliament July the ninth, 1793. The following is a copy from the Gazette of Newark: "For sale—a Negro slave, eighteen years of age, stout and healthy, has had the smallpox, and is capable of service either in house or out doors. The terms will be made easy for the purchaser and cash received in payment. Inquire of the printer."

"*Indian Slave.*" All persons are forbidden harboring, employing or concealing my Indian slave called, Sal, as I am determined to prosecute any offender to the utmost extent of the law, and persons who may suffer her to remain on their premises for the space of half an hour without my consent will be taken as offending and dealt with according to law."—Signed Charles Fields. The last session of the first Parliament of Upper Canada was held at Newark in 1796. This was the last Parliament held at this historic point. Events were transpiring which made the removal of the Capital necessary. At this time Fort Niagara on the east side of the river, which, until this time had been held by the English, was given up to the Americans. Governor Simcoe considered that the Capital was too near an American fort and moved it to a temporary one at Little York, known as Muddy York, now Toronto, receiving its name 'York' in honor of Frederick, Duke of York. After many years when it had grown to be a city, it resumed its old Indian name, 'Toronto.' During the second session of the second Parliament in 1798, Upper Canada was again divided, this time into eight districts of twenty-three Counties and 158 Townships. From the division which was made at this time the Townships of Clinton, Grimsby, Saltfleet, Barton, Ancaster, Glanford, Binbrook, Gainsboro, and Caistor, formed the first riding of

the County of Lincoln. The Townships of Niagara, Grantham and Louth formed the second Riding. The Townships of Stamford, Thorold and Pelham formed the third Riding, and the fourth Riding was made up of the Townships of Bertie, Willoughby, Crowland, Humberstone, and Wainfleet. Various changes have since been made by joining some of the Townships to other Counties. About this time the Governor-General, Lord Dorchester, who was the King's chief representative in Canada, instructed Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe to take up his residence in York, while Simcoe favored the forks of the Thames, now London, as the Capital. In a letter to the Colonial Secretary he suggested that the temporary Government buildings at York be sold and the Capital removed to London, which he claimed was its proper place. It is said that Lord Dorchester favored Kingston, and Simcoe favored London, and that they compromised by agreeing on Toronto. There is not much honor for Toronto if this claim is correct, but the events which followed would lead us to believe that such is not the case. Dorchester gave Simcoe his instructions which were opposed by the Lieutenant-Governor, who was conscientious in his belief that London was the proper place for the capital. It is also supposed that some jealousy existed between these two representatives of the King in Canada. Dorchester had his way, however, and York, the temporary Capital, became the permanent one and we believe rightly so. However, as a result, no doubt, of this friction, Canada lost two splendid Administrators, as both Dorchester and Simcoe were recalled by the Home Government, in the same year, Lord Dorchester having served for two terms from 1776 to 1796.

The fourth Parliament of Upper Canada held at York in 1805 is the one in which Smithville has a special interest as one of its early inhabitants, Solomon Hill, grandfather of John W. and of Alvin Hill of Smithville, was elected to this Parliament in a campaign in which he was opposed by seven other candidates. He was a son-in-law of Richard Griffin, Smithville's first citizen. Colonel Robert Nelles of Grimsby was also a successful candidate in this election. We shall consider briefly the election of these men and the available history of Colonel Nelles at this time. A complete record of the life of his Colleague, Solomon Hill, is contained in another chapter.

It was the days of open voting, the ballot being introduced in Ontario in 1874. Colonel Charles Clark in 'Sixty Years of Upper Canada' writes regarding open voting. 'At a Polling booth I had seen men driven from the building with broken heads and bruised bodies, because it was known that their votes if recorded would be contrary to the local majority. I have known men sworn as special constables using their authority to force back again and again from the poles, voters of an opposite party, and I had heard some twenty men who, while taking the oath as special constables, and saying that they would keep the peace toward all Her Majesty's Subjects, interpolate the words, 'Except the d——d Grits.'

These conditions may not have existed in the time of Mr. Hill and Colonel Nelles. One thing is certain, and that is that these early elec-

tions were exciting times compared with those of our own day. Feelings ran high and whiskey ran freely, fights were frequent and a few were fatal. Election in 1804 was held four days and each candidate was required to pay a Guinea each morning at the opening of the polls. As Mr. Hill was successful in this election in 1804, Smithville has the honor of sending a member to the fourth Parliament of Upper Canada at Little York, now Toronto.

In 1780 Henry Nelles and two of his sons from Palestine on the Mohawk River, N.Y., journeyed from Fort Niagara (then Newark) westward along the lake beach in search of a place for a home, stopping over night at the mouth of the Forty Mile Creek, and he said to his sons: "This land is good, and this is far enough west; nobody will settle beyond this in our day." He, however, subsequently settled on the Grand River where the village of York now stands. Captain Robert Nelles, son of Henry Nelles, settled on Lot Number Eleven, Concession 1, in 1783; his brother Abraham (afterwards Legislative Councillor) in 1784, and William Nelles in 1787. Robert Nelles was a person of strong will, great endurance, was a valiant warrior and was often employed in carrying despatches of a confidential character and under difficult circumstances during the American Revolution. On one occasion the 14th of February, 1780, he and four Indians were so driven and surrounded by a superior force of Continentals that they could only escape by swimming the Oswego River near its mouth. Nelles and one Indian only made good the opposite shore and escaped, though the bullets whizzed about their heads. Their clothes were in a few minutes frozen on them and no means of drying them except the heat of their bodies, until they got to Fort Niagara. Nelles lived at Grimsby, to a good old age, having filled several places of position and trust. Such were the men that Smithville and Grimsby sent to the fourth Parliament on the first day of February, in the year 1805 to represent the constituences of West York, First Lincoln and Hal-dimand. Abraham Nelles, Esq., was the Returning Officer. There were nineteen members elected to this Parliament. In reading the proceedings of this Parliament, we note the broader outlook and larger activities of the Province, schools, roads, jails, revenues, etc., were problems which were confronting the young Province. We find Mr. Nelles and Mr. Hill very frequently voting on the same side, for or against the Bills proposed. We find a delegation with some sixty one signers asking that the minnum amount of liquor which the Distillers could sell be reduced from three gallons to one. This petition was signed by two innkeepers and three others. Some of the names appear to be familiar ones.

Another petition regarding Provincial Highways was signed by John Pettitt, Levi Lewis, Richard Griffin, Wm. Kennedy, and fifteen others. Familiar names in Smithville and Grimsby in those days. It would appear that the Hon. Mr. Biggs is not the first man to confront the problem of Provincial Highways.





CELEBRATION AT SMITHVILLE JULY 1st, 1904



“SMITHVILLE IN 1922—Griffin Street South”

We find that at the opening of the fourth session of this fourth Parliament on Tuesday, January 26th, 1808, Joseph Willcocks, Esquire, was sworn as the new member for York, First Lincoln and Haldimand, in the seat of Solomon Hill, who had passed over into the Great Beyond where the Great Law-Giver rules and reigns.



## CHURCHES

### CHAPTER X.

For some years after the conquest of New France the Roman Catholic Church continued to minister to the Colonists almost without a rival. After a time, however, we find ministers of other Churches entering the Provinces, and beginning that humble work from which sprang several strong denominations. Within five years of the fall of Montreal, we hear of a Presbyterian Minister conducting services in the Jesuite College Quebec. In 1782 the first sermon by a Methodist Minister was preached in Halifax. Two years later the Rev. John Stuart, the father of the Upper Canada Church (Anglican), began his work. The year 1786 saw the erection of the first Protestant Church in Upper Canada, built by George III. along the Grand River, near where the City of Brantford is now located. This church was built for the loyal Mohawk Indians. It is still standing and is a precious historic landmark of the Mohawks of our own time. By the close of the century, three churches, the Anglican, the Presbyterian, and the Methodist, had gained a foothold in all the Provinces. Let us see what progress the church had made in our own county. The first regular religious service in the Township of Grimsby was the Church of England, performed by Judge Pettitt in 1787, in his own, and occasionally in his neighbor's houses, until the building of the log church where the stone church was built in 1812. The second church (Methodist) was built in 1802 on the mountain near Thirty Mile Creek. The first resident Methodist minister was Rev. Elijah Warren of Smithville, in 1818. The Weslyn Methodists at this time held their services in the old Court House at Smithville. In 1821 they built a small frame church on the sight of the present Methodist Church. Smith Griffin preached in those early days and the settlers came to worship dressed in top boots and homespun clothing. Several descendants of the Griffin's became ministers of the Gospel. Most of the settlers at this time were either Methodists or Tunkers. Ned Griffin was buried in this Methodist cemetery. In the year 1882 this old frame church was replaced by the beautiful brick church which the village has today. The following is an extract of a letter dated Smithville, August 16th, 1882, written by Mr. Hugh Bridgman, a clever local preacher of this church, to the Rev. J. M. Van Every, an ordained minister of the Methodist Church, and a former resident member of this old Smithville church. It reads:—"We are engaged in building a new and beautiful commodious church in old Smithville, in place of the old delapidated one in which we used to worship, and where we had good times, and souls were converted and now are bright and shining stars doing good in the world. Go on, Brother—for you are one of that number."

As a small lad I attended Sabbath School in this Church with Mrs. Hugh Bridgman (Ann Field) as teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Bridgman were life workers there, faithful to the end and have both gone to their re-

ward. In the year 1862 the Universalist Church was built. It was located two Lots beyond the residence of Mr. Frank Hays. The first minister of this church was the Rev. Mr. Lavelle. A large congregation worshipped here for many years. Death and removals brought the membership down to a few families and some few years ago the property was sold and the old church which had been a religious landmark for many years was torn down. The Episcopal Methodist Church was located on the present sight of the Presbyterian Church. It is spoken of as 'The Old White Church,' a frame building, plain and simple in its structure. It contained but one centre aisle with wooden benches on either side, and had no organ. In 1886 this church was sold to the Presbyterians who built the present brick church. The Episcopal Methodists united at this time with the Weslyans. About 1816 the Rev. D. W. Eastman, the Pioneer Missionary, became a resident minister in the Township. Mr. Eastman's work in Presbyterianism in early days is recorded in another chapter. Some time previous to the year 1876 the sight for the present Catholic Church was donated by Mr. Martin Lally. Here a neat little church and comfortable Priest's home were built.

Services are still held there. The disciple Church was standing in 1876. While we believe that the Anglican was built at a later date. Both of these churches still have regular services within their sacred walls. Smithville has, generally speaking, a church-going population, and her members take pride in keeping their houses of worship simple, yet suitable for the purpose for which they were dedicated.

These various churches, by the Grace of God, as instruments in His Hands, have sent forth Missionaries, Ministers and christian workers by the hundreds, who have sown the seed during many years and we feel sure that many Golden Harvests have been garnered in, as the result of their zeal and faithfulness.

## EDUCATION

### CHAPTER XI.

Next to the Christian Church the Educational Institutions are the most important in a community. For 127 years Smithville has been steadily advancing towards higher and better standards of education. There is room for doubting the wisdom of introducing some subjects and certain text books required by the Educational Department, yet, on the whole, the progress of education has during the last century been in the right direction.

The first school house in the County was built of logs and was situated a little east of the Village of Grimsby in 1794. The same year another was built at the Thirty Mile Creek, in which taught John French. The third school was built at Smithville in 1795 and in 1818 one was built in the Merritt Settlement, and about 1830 the log school at Middleport was built. Peter Pitcher was the first school teacher in Smithville. The first school house built in Smithville in 1795, we presume, is the old log school house which was situated where the residence of Mr. John Deans is located. This school was attended by Robert Murgatroyd and Jerry Collins. At a later date Doctor Gilbert Field, father of Mrs. Frank Hays of Smithville, taught school here. This school was also taught by the Rev. Mr. Bartram, who also preached in the old Episcopal Methodist Church. The next pioneer school was the one built about 1830, between Smithville and Middleport, a small hamlet of a few houses, near the Jerry Taylor property on the St. Anns road. Mr. D. W. Eastman, who attended school there speaks of Deacon Page's active interest in the construction and progress of this school. One of the school buildings, constructed on this sight is the house recently occupied by Mr. Nelson Ness, opposite the Cartright property. This may not be the original school building, as it is remembered as a red building. Sarah Burkholder was the first teacher of this school where the three Rs, Reading, Riting and Rithmetic were well grounded. The following were scholars at this old school: Mike Dalton, Mary Sammons, Ward Eastman, Alfred Page, Joe Kennedy, John Kennedy, Nancy Page, Mary Page, Alvin Hill, Fred Eastman, Ed. Sammons, Hester Sammons, George Oill, Joe Oill, Charlotte Oill, Eliz. Oill, Anna Kelly.

Other teachers in this school were Ann Field (Mrs. Hugh Bridgman), Eliza Dalton and Florella Morse, daughter of Abishai Morse.

In these early days many private schools were conducted in various homes where the children were sent and a fee paid by the parents, to the teacher for the tuition. There was also held select schools where parents who had the means sent their children, and paid the tuition fee for the teacher's services. Such a school was held in the old Court House in Smithville.

The next progressive movement along educational lines in the village was the construction of the present public school building, of frame structure, and consisting of three rooms. The public school was held in



the two lower rooms, Fred Eastman being the first Principal. In the upper room, which is now the senior public school room, was held Smithville's first High School or Grammar School, as it was then called. This school was taught by Wm. Cruickshank, a man of considerable ability. Here the High School was held until the present High School building was built. Some of the teachers of the public school in days past were Junior Room—Miss Grace McGregor, Miss Laura Merritt (Mrs. James Glover), Miss B. Gove, Miss Louise Teeter (Mrs. Bell), Miss Myrtle Woodlan (Mrs. L. Killins), Miss Smith (Mrs. Willis Lymburner), and Miss Flossie Gove. In the Senior Room were John Anderson, with his famous cat-o-nine-tails. I can feel them yet. Robert Wade, John Nichol, now Rev. Dr. Nichol, Mr. McKinnon, G. White and Miss Comfort.

The most outstanding figure in the history of the High School is Mr. James Tremeer, who now lives at Medicine Hat, Alberta. Mr. Tremeer began his work in Smithville in February, 1890, and remained until the summer of 1895. Upon an invitation of the High School Board he returned in the summer of 1899, remaining until 1906. It was during this period that the writer came under the influence of Mr. Tremeer's personality, and instruction. I shall here recall a few scenes of those happy days. Looking back over school days there are certain events that seem stamped upon our memories, while others are but a misty shade of memory. I first began to feel an interest in Mr. Tremeer when I received a postcard through the mail, referring to the H. S. Entrance examinations on which I read with trembling hand and a thumping heart the word 'Passed.' This card was signed by Mr. Tremeer. The next recollection I have of him was his kind, encouraging smile when I met him on the street and he said that he was pleased at my success. His kind wife was as pleased as he and 'said so.' I wonder if we realize how much we help and encourage the youth in our midst by saying something encouraging. After entering Mr. Tremeer's school I was to learn something more of his smile, which, though frequent, was hidden behind two fingers, lest the students might think that he was given to levity within the halls of learning. Mr. Tremeer was an excellent teacher, conscientious, untiring, faithful, and was loved by the students whose welfare he had so much at heart.

In 1906 he moved to Leamington, and in 1908 again upon invitation he returned to the Smithville school, retiring from the profession in 1913. In the classes sent up by Mr. Tremeer for Departmental examinations the great majority passed, often whole classes, with but single exceptions, were successful. Many of these graduates are now occupying prominent positions, some Professors in Toronto University, Principals of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, others as noted physicians, and many others are bringing honor to their Alma Mater, Smithville High School.

Some of the assistant teachers during Mr. Tremeer's Principalship were Miss Alice Maude Wicket (Mrs. Ellis Murgatroyd), Misses Nelson, White, McArthur, Lick, Bridgman, Hill, Lindsay, McKay, Teeter (Mrs. L. Bell) and Mr. Fathener, Mr. Roper and Mr. Williams.

Mr. Tom Elliott was for a number of years a successful Principal of the school. As he is a native of Smithville, and educated at the Smithville schools, we are proud of his marked success as a Principal.

The grounds of the school were greatly improved and beautified by the individual efforts of Mr. Charles Fritshaw, a former Trustee, whose heart was in the school and his interest in its achievements. Mr. D. W. Eastman, now of Barrie, was for many years a Trustee of the school and many other public-spirited men have occupied positions on its Board, who have had the welfare of the institution and the youth of the community at heart. Smithville may be proud of her history along educational lines and it is hoped that she may send forth in the next century as many clever and capable men and women, as she has in the past.

## THE PRESS

### CHAPTER XII.

The Press of a district constitutes one of the most important features of its society. Journalism wields a mighty influence socially, morally, and politically, forming and controlling in a large measure the thought of the people. It is the channel of information for the masses. It is a power in the land and generally speaking, it is a power for good, keeping the people posted on current events, stimulating a national and patriotic unity of thought and ideals. It is the enemy of the drone and the object of fear in the heart of the evil-doer. We take pleasure in alloting the space of this chapter to 'The Press' of the past and present. We present the historic records of its growth and development with a feeling of gratitude that this great source of education and advancement had its birth in Upper Canada in our own County of Lincoln. It is a generally acknowledged fact that the oldest paper founded in Canada was the *Halifax Gazette*, in 1752. It is also generally conceded that the first newspaper founded in Upper Canada was the *Upper Canada Gazette*, which was first published at Newark, on the 18th day of April, 1793. It was the Government paper of the time, and was the means by which Governor Simcoe gave official notices to the people. The annual subscription to this first newspaper was three dollars. It has been stated that the *Gazette* removed to York in 1794, but we believe that such was not the case. During the third session of the first Parliament held at Newark, 1794, we find in the official records of such sessions, reference to the Lieutenant-Governor's speeches which are not recorded but referred to as 'in the *Gazette*.'

As the *Gazette* was a Government organ it is very probable that it continued to be printed in Newark until the seat of Government was moved to York in 1797. Another writer states that it was moved to York in 1799, while an historian of the County of Lincoln copies an extract from the *Gazette* of Newark under the date of November 28th, 1802. The reference is an advertisement for the return of a lost slave, while as a matter of fact slavery was abolished in Upper Canada by the first Parliament, 1792-1796. The article may have appeared under the date of 1792 instead of 1802 as recorded. It is our opinion that the *Gazette* was printed at Newark until after Parliament was called in session at York in 1797 and the statement that it was moved to York in 1799 is probably correct.

At any rate it was the first newspaper published in Toronto. When published at Newark the *Gazette* had about 150 subscribers and Gideon Tiffany was the publisher. It was followed at Niagara by *The Spectator* and later on by *The Niagara Gleaner*, published for many years by Andrew Heron. *The Gazette* became the organ of officialism and William Lyon Mackenzie was so wrathful that during the troubles of 1837 he caused the house of the publisher, Dr. Horne, on Yonge Street, to be burned.



In 1824 Wm. Lyon Mackenzie commenced the *Colonial Advocate*, for three months printed by Oliver Grace in Lewiston, and dated at Queenston. Mackenzie then induced Hiram Leavenworth to move his printing establishment from Rochester to Queenston, where he settled in August, 1824. It is the purpose of the Men's Club of Queenston to preserve this historic printing office of Mackenzie from ruin and decay. *The Advocate* was then moved to York, where Mr. Leavenworth continued printing it, by contract for about five months. On February 1st, 1826, Leavenworth published in St. Catharines *The Farmer's Journal*, and the *Welland Canal Intelligencer*, at \$4 per year. On January 1st, 1827, he took a census of St. Catharines and at that time the population numbered 384 people.

In 1844 George Brown founded *The Banner*, an organ of Scottish Presbyterianism, and from it emerged *The Globe*, still a champion of clean living, and Scottish adherence to the Kirk and its teaching.

*The Welland Telegraph* was started in 1863 and was for a time the leading journal of the County.

*The Welland Tribune* was started and fostered, first in the Village of Fonthill in 1854, the enterprise being prompted at the time to meet the requirements of the Reform Party in a general election. A few years ago *The Telegraph* and *Tribune* of Welland amalgamated and are now known as '*The Tribune and Telegraph*.' Some time previous to 1886, Mr. Constable started the *Smithville Independent* at Smithville. His printing office was in the old 'Checkered Store' where the McMurchie property is now situated. This store was burned in the big fire of 1886.

A small news sheet was printed in the Maclean Block, recently known as the Shrum Feed Store, about the year 1897.

On June 15th, 1916, Mr. A. T. Michell commenced the publication of the *Smithville Review*, a weekly paper which now has a circulation of 1,050 copies. Mr. Michell has installed in the Shepard Block up-to-date type setting machines and presses, and turns out a paper of which Smithville is justly proud. *The Review* has striven since its first publication for local progress and development and has furnished the incentive for many local improvements, and for much village pride and progress.

## RAILWAYS

### CHAPTER XIII.

Until the year 1896 Smithville had been without any railway accommodation, nor had the people up to this time the use of the automobile for travel. A short journey had to be taken by horse and carriage, and a long one, by railway after a ride of eight miles on the old stage coach to Grimsby. At last the air became charged with news of the coming of a railway. Would it touch our village? How soon would it come? Perhaps it was just rumor like lots of other things which had been promised to put life into the sleeping old village. Some said: 'Would it not kill the town?' Some said it would cut up the farms and kill the cattle. Others said it would never be built. There were those who believed that a railway would be detrimental to Smithville, and some actually canvassed voters against the project. It was the old story of the chronic kickers who oppose every progressive movement. Robert Murgatroyd, Sr., fought strenuously for this transportation facility so much needed by the district. He journeyed several times to Ottawa on delegations relative to its consummation. The route contemplated was to run a mile or more north of Smithville, which was strongly opposed by Mr. Murgatroyd. A bonus by-law of \$5,000 was passed by the Township. It has been stated to have carried by the small majority of 9 votes. In advancing this bonus certain concessions were obtained from the Railway Company, guaranteeing a specified number of trains daily each way to stop at Smithville, which was, as was learned later, a wise precaution on the part of the Township. Mr. Murgatroyd was one of the Provisional Directors of the new Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway. And so the work on the cuts and grades began. There were wheel scrapers, slushers or hand scrapers, and plows at work everywhere along the proposed route. There were bridge gangs and workmen of various trades, and skilled and unskilled laborers. A few farmers undertook to stop the construction of a railway on their farms by the use of pitch forks, axes, etc., but in spite of this formidable opposition, the grades began to fill and the cuts to open up a clear view of roadbed ready for ties and rails. Soon the track-laying began; work trains loaded with rails, spikes and ties appeared. The rails were lifted by many strong Italian arms and placed into position, followed by the spike drivers, after which the locomotive moved forward foot by foot.

I was not addicted to the habit of playing hookey from school in my youth, but at this time I somehow acquired it, and it seemed to be contagious, as other boys were seen more often at the railway tracks than at school. After all it was an education for us and we no doubt learned more practical knowledge during those days than if we had been at school.

At this time Smithville had an Italian population of over one hundred. The old Lovejoy was packed with Italian laborers and their families. Two Italian children, Pete and Ikey, sons of one of these

families attended public school, and sat opposite me in the class room. They were well-behaved youngsters and spent a good deal of their time showing their white teeth in a broad grin of good nature. In order to tease me at home I was called Pete or Ikey. The title of 'Pete' did not rile me very much, but 'Ikey' was too much. At this I openly rebelled. Ikey; Ikey—just try to imagine yourself called 'Ikey.'

One day fifty of the Italian workmen decided that they had a grievance against the Railway Company. Working with them were about twenty white men, most of them our own villagers. The Italians declared a strike, hoisted a red flag on a pole, rounded up the Smithville workmen and took them along to the office where a general row took place. This was no doubt Smithville's first strike.

At last the great day came, when the first train was to pass over the new road, and was the occasion of another morning of hookey, in order to ride a few feet on the big engine that was to pull the first coaches over the new road.

In 1914 a branch line of railway, the Erie and Ontario, forming a part of the T.H. & B. system, was built from Smithville to Port Maitland, touching the town of Dunnville, an important outlet for Smithville to the south. The first T.H. & B. Depot at Smithville was burned by lightning, and the Railway Company has since provided a comfortable depot for the accommodation of the patrons of the road.

Instead of killing Smithville its railway is the big factor which is going to play its part in making our native village into a good-sized, prosperous town.



## BARTER, BANKS AND BANKING

### CHAPTER XIV.

The development of railways in Canada and the growth of financial facilities, through the improvement of currency, and the expansion of Banks, made possible and inevitable, the breakdown of the isolation of pioneer days, and the growth of nation-wide and eventually world-wide trade and connections. Farming ceased to be carried on wholly for use and became specialized. In manufacturing and trade, we note the gradual concentration in large towns and cities, taking the production of the country's needs out of the hands of the primitive Village Manufacturer, shifting from the self-contained life of the back woods clearing to production for nation-wide exchange, the linking up of the country by railways and Banks into a single market, and the specialization of all industry.

The evolution of Canadian Banking began before Confederation. The first half century of Canadian Banking might be called the period of Provincial Banking, as the only Legislative authority exercised over Banking was that of the Legislatures of the individual Provinces. The only unifying institution was the British Government.

From 1841 to 1867 in Upper and Lower Canada there was legislative unity and as a result, unification of Banking Legislation was accomplished, during that period. The federation of the scattered Provinces in 1867 resulted in a series of general Banking Acts and the unification of Banking regulations throughout the Dominion.

Owing to the nature of the Physical and Geographical conditions of the settlements in Upper Canada, the means of communication being very imperfect, they had little or no choice as to the places in which they might purchase supplies or dispose of their products. Even though there had been an abundance of circulating medium, their trade would still have been essentially one of barter; an exchange of their surplus products with the nearest merchant, for a limited range of goods. Many functions were united in one person in those days; all kinds of goods were supplied by one merchant and all kinds of surplus products were purchased and exported by the same merchant. Where mills were erected the leading merchants commonly owned them. The system of barter is as old as the race. All primitive races have adopted this means of supplying their needs. Various articles have been used as a medium of exchange, something commonly and generally in demand such as ivory, skins of animals, ornaments, etc. Since the depreciation of the German mark, many places in Germany have reverted to the early form of barter. School tuitions are fixed in rye. Physicians are asking patients to pay their fees in produce at pre war cost.

In the early days of Upper Canada the local merchants dealt largely with the importers at Kingston and Queenston. These wholesale merchants acted as Bankers as well, and dealt in exchange, took deposits and allowed their customers to issue orders on them. Later the most

pressing currency needs were supplied by the issue of what were known as army bills which circulated freely throughout the country. Halifax Currency was made the legal standard, but York Currency was used by Montreal and Upper Canada merchants in trade. The original York shilling was the Mexican Real, but in later times it became known as the British sixpence. As the demand for the decimal system became stronger, it finally became the standard in Canada.

The Canadian Banking system which later was introduced, was founded on the system introduced by Alexander Hamilton, the First Secretary of the Treasury under the present constitution of the United States.

What was true of most rural communities we find was the conditions prevailing in Smithville in these early days, Halifax Currency, barter, restricted trade, few channels for exchange of produce, a limited currency and no banking facilities. I recall the time as a lad when any large financial transaction necessitated a journey to Hamilton or St. Catharines. Banks were invited to come in and give even a one-day a week service, but to no avail until June 22nd, 1905, when Mr. Joseph Anderson, an organizer of Branch Banks for the Union Bank of Canada, a Quebec institution, chartered in 1865 at Quebec City, came unsolicited into Smithville and opened a Branch of that Institution in the Murgatroyd Block, where Mr. J. A. Schnicks' tailor shop used to be. Mr. Anderson became the first Manager of Smithville's first chartered Bank. He is now an Inspector of that Institution, with headquarters at Toronto. Mr. J. M. Thomson of Hastings, Ontario, was the first Teller and Mr. Wesley B. Brant, son of John B. Brant of Smithville, was the first Junior Clerk. In February of the following year the writer entered the service of the same institution, his first day's work being to assist in the removal to the new building, which is now the home of the Union Bank of Canada in Smithville. The next Manager was Mr. J. Gordon Moffat of Norwood, who was followed by Mr. C. Brooke Marsland. Mr. Marsland's successor was Mr. H. G. Parrott, the present Manager.

Previous to this time the firm of R. Murgatroyd and Sons, Private Bankers, did considerable discounting and exchange business, the latter being turned over to the Union Bank of Canada upon their entering the field. This firm of Private Bankers is still doing business in Smithville and is composed of Messrs. Ellis and Robert Murgatroyd, both well-schooled in business and commercial law, and both of them have had a wide business experience in the mercantile business of R. Murgatroyd and Sons.

The Royal Bank of Canada one of Canada's largest Banks, established a Branch in Smithville in the Spring of 1920, being the second Chartered Bank to enter the field. These three Banking institutions give Smithville and the surrounding country excellent banking accommodation. Mr. A. A. Hutchison is the Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada at the present time. No longer do the citizens drive for miles in order to transact business. All their financial operations may be completed satisfac-

torily in their own village, no matter what part of the civilized world the business may originate from. Smithville is proud of her financial institutions and of the office appointments, which have been provided, insuring comfort and security to the Banks' numerous patrons.



## CHAPTER XV.

### PROMINENT CITIZENS OF SMITHVILLE—PAST AND PRESENT

#### *The McColloms*

James McCollom came from near Albany, N.Y., to Canada in 1793, and settled at Smithville. He had thirteen children, who became scattered, settling at various points in Canada. Daniel, however, settled on the old homestead, where Jasper McCollom lived at a later period. Daniel had a large family. One son, Philip, remained on the old homestead. Another of Daniel's sons was Murry, who settled on the farm adjoining Philip's. It is the descendants of Murry who are the best known in Smithville, as they lived there for a number of years as highly respected citizens. There were three sons, Melvin, Harvey and Alva. Melvin's family consisted of Maude, Claude, Ruey, Ray and Hazel. Ray of this family still lives near Smithville. Harvey lived for many years at Smithville and his family consisted of the following children: Will, Nellie, Lizzie, Susan and Ethel. Alva, another son of Murry, is now living in Smithville. His family consists of the following: Ellis, Cora, Ruby and Annie. Murry McCollom also had two daughters, Alice, the mother of Sterling Turner of Smithville and Matilda, the mother of Harry Farr, also a resident of the village. An outstanding characteristic of the descendants of James McCollom is a happy disposition, and a kindly manner. They have been largely agriculturalists, and successful in their calling. They have played an important part since 1793, in the Agricultural development of the district. Theirs was the task of hewing out a home in the midst of the forest, and the land cleared by James McCollom and his family has been kept busy producing ever since, by his sturdy and ambitious descendants.

#### *Solomon Hill*

At the beginning of the Sixteenth Century, owing to religious strife in England, many refugees fled to Holland, where they could worship in freedom as their conscience and knowledge of the truth dictated. Among these refugee families were the Hills, who remained for two generations in the Dutch country. In 1720 Anthony Hill came to America, and settled in New York State. Uriah Hill, Jr., of Peekskill, N.Y., a great great grandson of Anthony Hill, wrote the history of the Hill family. The Canadian Branch of the family he traced from Anthony Hill down the line for six generations to the author of this little volume. Thomas T. Hill an attorney, now living at Carmel, N. Y., a great, great, great grandson of Anthony Hill, had some part in the preparation of this history. He states that Uriah Hill spent several thousand dollars and traveled several thousand miles to prove up the history and to insure accuracy, so that the history quoted from this book may be considered authentic. It is said that Anthony Hill lived at Queemans Landing, on the Mohawk River. He had a son, William Hill, whose wife was

Bethiah Smith Hill, They lived at what was then known as Red Mills, now Mahopac Falls, N.Y. William's youngest son was Abraham Hill, the grandfather of Thomas T. Hill of Carmen. Another son of William and Bethiah Hill was Solomon, born August 30th, 1756, at Red Mills. Writing of Solomon Hill, Uriah Hill, in his history, says in part: 'Solomon Hill, M.P.P., son of William and Bethiah (Smith) Hill, born August 30th, 1756, at Red Mills, Dutchess, (now Mahopac Falls, Putnam) County N.Y.; died at Smithville, Lincoln County, District of Niagara, Canada, August 30th, 1807. During the War of the Revolution he was loyal to the British Government and removed from Red Mills to Coemans, Albany County, N.Y., where in December, 1783, he married Bethiah, daughter of Richard and Mary (Smith) Griffin, and grand-daughter of Abraham and Margaret Smith of Philips Precinct, Dutchess County, N.Y. In 1795 he removed to Smithville, Canada, where his father-in-law had previously removed and settled.

'For his loyalty to Great Britain a large tract of land was granted him by the British Government. Upon his removal to Canada, he took an active interest in public affairs, received a commission in the local Militia and in 1804 was elected a member of the Provincial Parliament, which office he held to the time of his death. He was a man of high character, exemplary habits, deeply religious, of unusual ability, and a very able public speaker. After the death of his father, he made a short visit to Red Mills and disposed of the real property devised to him by his father to his brothers, Abraham and Cornelius Hill.'

H. R. Page, in his history of Lincoln and Welland County, 1876, refers to Solomon Hill's election to Parliament against seven other candidates, and refers to him as a very clever speaker.

Solomon Hill had a son, Nathaniel, who married Eleanor Field of Niagara-on-the-Lake, River Road. The old homestead of Solomon Hill was situated where Fitz Hugh Patterson's house now stands. Nathaniel Hill moved part of this building to where John Woodruf Hill's cottage home is now located, using the old building as a kitchen and building the present cottage front. I believe that we are safe in saying that the old portion of the home is the oldest building in Smithville, as Solomon Hill was among the early settlers in the village. The old Crown Deed of this farm, 220 acres, composed of W. F. H. Patterson and John W. Hill farms, is an interesting document. It shows the transfer of this property from the Crown to Edward Griffin, to Bethiah (Griffin) Myree, Bethiah Myree to Jacob Myree, Jacob Myree (step-father of Nathaniel Hill) to Nathaniel Hill, Nathaniel Hill to his son, John Woodruf Hill, (the grandson of Solomon Hill), who now owns the property. The seal attached to this document, dated 1798 measures four and a half inches in diameter, and is five-eighths of an inch thick. It was made of beeswax, and was the old Crown Seal of His Majesty, George III. Solomon Hill was a member of the fourth Parliament of Upper Canada, and was the first member of Parliament sent from Smithville.

*Martin Lally*

Martin Lally was born in Balinrobe, County Mayo, Ireland, April 6th, 1809. At the age of eighteen he concluded to try his fortune in new lands, and sailed for America in the good ship "Sunderland," manned by Captain Barry and crew. After some four or five weeks' voyage he landed in Quebec, where he learned that the dreaded disease, cholera, was sweeping the land. He did not tarry long here, but crossed the line into United States, where he worked for a time in Syracuse and Lyons. Returning to Canada he came to Thorold. From Thorold he journeyed to Grimsby in Her Majesty's Mail Coach, a lumber wagon. From this point he went to Smithville, a hamlet of a few houses, but to him a promising point as a source of supply to the lumbering district of the Chippewa and Grand River, and a farming community covering a large district. His first purchase was a lot on Griffin Street, now owned by The Union Bank of Canada, also the property on West Street, on which the Lally homestead is situated.

In 1844 he opened a general store and prepared to serve his patrons. Before long he felt the need of help. In Hamilton he found clerks, and as there was no ready-made footwear or clothing available, he brought in tailors and shoemakers. He also started a cooper shop. The latter business outgrew his anticipations. In a short time he was delivering flour barrels to mills at St. Catharines and Thorold, pork barrels to Hamilton, as well as supplying the apple barrels for the fruit district between Beamsville and Winona. Shortly after he settled in Smithville he married a widow, Mrs. Hopkins, daughter of Benjamin Fralick of the Township of Thorold. This family was one of the pioneer stock, her grandmother being one of the first three white children born at Niagara. She ably assisted her husband in his efforts to carve out a future in Canada. She had a family of nine children, seven of whom are still living. She died at the age of 93.

As business increased Mr. Lally built more stores and dwellings for those whom he employed, all of which burned in the big fire of 1886. He purchased a farm west of Griffin Street where a fine limestone quarry, furnished building stone for those requiring it. On the north-west limit of his property he donated a site for the Catholic Church. When he came to Smithville a barn was standing where the park is now located, this he purchased and removed in order to improve the appearance of the street.

He was active in business until the age of 76 years and died in April, 1886.

At the time of his death the country was visited by an unusual snow-storm of four feet deep on April 6th. The storm was so bad that Midgely Murgatroyd closed his store for two days, refusing to venture forth.

Mr. Lally owned a two-horse carriage, which in his time was considered one of the finest vehicles in the neighborhood. It was purchased about 1850 from Homes and Greenwood of St. Catharines. The style of this carriage was striking and the upholstering elegant. It was built to convey the Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward) through the



city when he visited St. Catharines. As a youngster I recall playing in this old carriage and remember distinctly the elegance of the interior finish.

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*The Morses*

Abishai Morse, Esq., was born in the Town of Moravia, Cayuga County, N.Y., on July the 9th, 1805. His parents were Puritans of Anglo-Norman lineage. He belonged to the same family as the Rev. Jedediah Morse, the father of American Geography, and the father of Samuel F. B. Morse of telegraphic celebrity. Abishai Mores's parents came to Canada soon after the war of 1812. He became largely a self-educated man, and in later years took a keen interest in educational matters. He, with Robert Murgatroyd were responsible for the commencement of a High School in Smithville. He was a chairman of the Public and High School Boards for nearly thirty years. He occupied the position of Postmaster, Clerk of the Division Court, Township Reeve, County Warden, Magistrate and Councillor. He was for over fifty years a local preacher in the Methodist Church. He had two sons who went into the ministry. Mr. Morse was an outstanding figure in his day, and a leader in the public activities of Smithville. His son, Ernest A. Morse, lived for a number of years on the old Morse farm, a mile above Smithville across the Twenty Creek, at the point known as Morse's Rapids. He now lives at East Bloomfield, N.Y., where his son, George, resides. Another son, Eric E., lives at Ridgville, Ontario, the only one of nine great grandchildren of Abishai Morse living in Canada at the present time. He is a successful fruit grower and a respected citizen.

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*George Brant*

George Brant was born at Basingstoke, County of Hants, England, in the year 1818. He came to Canada with an English Regiment and was stationed for a time at Quebec. He was tall and carried himself erect, and as an old man he retained a military bearing.

He became engaged in business in Smithville, as a merchant, druggist, undertaker and postmaster. He married Elizabeth Murgatroyd, a sister of Robert Murgatroyd. He was a prominent Mason when that organization first had a lodge in Smithville, which was held over his drug store.

The story is told that Mr. Brant was very fond of rice. His wife, leaving him to keep house for a few days, he decided that he would cook a good supply of his favorite dish. Buying several pounds of rice which did not appear to be much in bulk, he placed this in a kettle, added some water, and placed it on the stove. Soon the rice began to swell, and it was found necessary to divide the amount into two kettles, adding more water. Still the grains seemed to multiply, with the result that Mrs. Brant returned home to find all her pots and pans full of cooked rice.

We print below an advertisement, in the form of a circular in rhyme, used by Mr. Brant in his business. It illustrates the fact that up to this period the transaction of business was still conducted largely by barter,

or exchange of goods, rather than by the use of currency. Mr. Brant died at Smithville in the year 1895.

VER SAP SAT

*If furniture you wish to buy,  
I'll tell you who can you supply,  
And goods the best in quality,  
Brant's is the place to find them.*

*Dry Goods also, there you'll find,  
And they are cheap too, for the kind,  
Do not mistake but bear in mind,  
Brant's is the place to find them.*

*Some Hardware too, you'll also find,  
I do not say there's every kind,  
But what there is, is cheap dy'e mind,  
Brant's the place to find them.*

*There's furniture all kinds you need,  
And Carpets, broadcloths, Prints, & Tweed,  
And Hardware, very cheap indeed,  
Brant's is the place to find them.*

*Please call, examine, ask the price,  
His son will show you in a trice,  
And if you will take my advice,  
Go to Brant's and find them.*

*All kinds of produce he'll receive  
And highest prices he will give,  
And if you'll only me believe,  
Brant's is the place to go to.*

*Lumber, Shingles, Cord Wood, Butter, Eggs, and all kinds  
of produce, taken in exchange for goods.  
Smithville*

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Robert C. Murgatroyd

Robert C. Murgatroyd was born at Lansengburg, near Troy, N.Y., on July 14th, 1823, of English parentage, shortly after their arrival in America, and came with them to Smithville when he was about nine years of age. His father owned the farm on which the late Thomas Kettle lived. In his early manhood he was paymaster in the Gloucester Iron Works at Philadelphia. I have heard him describe the triumph of Jenny Lind in that city, and I recall from boyhood his description of her charming manner and wonderful voice.

For a number of years he carried on a large carriage factory business in Smithville in company with his father and elder brother Thomas, under the name of Thomas Murgatroyd and Sons. He was for a short time in partnership with his brother-in-law, George Brant, in the mercantile business. Later on he was with his brother Midgely, engaged in the grist milling and wool carding business. In 1867 they purchased the bankrupt stock of Kerrigan Bros. of Smithville, and began the mercantile business known as R. and M. Murgatroyd, which continued in business until 1881 when the firm of R. Murgatroyd and Sons was formed, which took over the former business. This firm was composed of Robert Murgatroyd and his two sons, Robert, Jr., and Ellis. In 1887, they added banking to their business activities handling most of the drafts, cheques, etc., for the Banks, until the Union Bank of Canada opened a branch in Smithville, on June 22nd, 1905, when the cheque and draft business was handed over to them.

Robert Murgatroyd, Sr., was one of the Provisional Directors of The Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway, and journeyed many times to Ottawa with deputations on matters concerning it. It was through his influence that it was deflected from a straighter course (about a mile from Smithville) to the village. He used his time and influence toward the passing of the Bonus By-Law of \$4,000 from the Township. This provided for the stopping at Smithville of a certain number of passenger trains daily each way, which has insured the village the splendid train service it has today.

I remember Robert Murgatroyd best as I saw him almost daily, seated in his store, where he held friendly converse with his friends and patrons. In front of him was a huge box stove which could swallow a cord wood stick with ease. During some part of every day the head of the firm would be found seated near this big stove. Whenever I had occasion to go there, if I found Mr. Murgatroyd's chair vacant, it seemed as if something was wrong with the store. Mr. Murgatroyd had a personality which made you feel and note his absence. He knew nearly every man, woman and child who came in his store and greeted them in a kind, friendly way, which was characteristic of the man. Here, as a boy, I have listened to many a hot political discussion with Mr. Murgatroyd championing the cause of Liberalism, and Mr. Charles Elliott or some other citizen upholding the banner of the Conservative Party. These debates were sometimes almost as warm as the big box stove, which was the silent witness of many a heated discussion. During election time Mr. Murgatroyd often took the public platform as chairman of a meeting, or speaker for some Liberal candidate. He was a man of good business judgment, a loyal citizen, and of a kindly disposition. He died in Smithville in March of the year 1910.

#### *The Walkers*

This is a well-known family in Smithville. Thomas Walker and his wife, Grace Laidlaw, came to Smithville in the year 1854 from Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. They had a family of thirteen children, many



of whom were for many years citizens of Smithville, where the boys were engaged in various businesses. One of the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Walker was married to William Adkins, a son of Edward Adkins, a former resident of Smithville. Mrs. Harold Hibbard of Smithville is a daughter of William and Mrs. Adkins and Edward now of the Village of Grimsby, is a son. Both of these children were born in Smithville.

Another of the children of Thomas and Grace Walker is Hugh D. Walker of Grimsby, who has made his mark as an inventive genius and as an industrial leader. He was born in Smithville on September the first, 1867. After leaving school he was apprenticed to W. H. Morgan, to learn the tinsmithing trade. He was then fourteen years of age. He remained with Mr. Morgan for three years, after which he went to Brantford. In 1887 he returned to Smithville and bought the Morgan business. He remained in Smithville for eleven years, during which time he invented the first metal shingle, with a lock on all four sides. These he manufactured in Smithville. In 1898 he moved to Preston, where he started the Preston Metal Shingle and Siding Co., which has grown to be a large concern. In 1905 he moved to Grimsby, where he started the Specialty Mfg. Co. He later started the Metal Craft Co., with which he is still connected.

Smithville is proud to own Mr. Walker as a son.

Thomas Walker, Sr., died in the year 1891, in his 67th year. Mrs. Walker died in 1919 in her 90th year.

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### *John B. Brant*

John Banfield Brant was the son of George Brant and Elizabeth Murgatroyd Brant. He was born in Smithville in the month of May, in the year 1855. He began his business career by learning the tinsmith trade in Toronto, after which he opened up a business in Smithville with William H. Morgan. The firm was known as "Brant and Morgan." This partnership was carried on for a time, after which Mr. Brant took over the business. He was appointed Postmaster in 1879, filling the position which his father had previously occupied. He then sold out the tinsmith business. He retained the office of Postmaster for thirty eight years. During the last fifteen years of this term he was ably assisted by his daughters, Mrs. (Rev.) Frank D. Roxburgh, now living in Alberta, who was very capable in performing this work, and Mrs. James Copeland (Gwen.) of Toronto, who also inherited her father's business ability. Her smiling face was always a cheering picture at the wicket.

Mr. Brant travelled as a young man over a large part of Europe. In addition to filling the position of Postmaster, he was a Notary Public and a man of marked business ability. His hearty laugh for many years cheered the lives of his friends. He was a man who took all the enjoyment out of life he could, and it was reflected in his happy disposition and hearty laughter. He died at his home in Smithville in the year 1919.

*Andrew Ruhl*

Andrew Ruhl was born in Germany and came to Canada as a young man. The journey across the broad Atlantic was taken in a sailing vessel which was three months making the voyage. They encountered many heavy storms and were often doubtful of seeing land again, but after many weary weeks they arrived in New York Harbor.

Mr. Ruhl served his apprenticeship as a cabinet-maker and at night attended school in order to learn the English language. He was not long in America before he spied a lass whom he chose as his wife. He said to me on one occasion: 'My wife, she speak no Sherman then, and I speak no English, but we make love shust the same.' He became a first-class cabinet-maker of the old school and later on he opened a shop in Smithville in the old court house, where he made furniture for the living and coffins for the dead. Hiram Field and Andrew Ruhl were bosom friends. Hiram was an amateur ventriloquist, who practiced the art in order to create some amusement for himself and his friends. He would often call at the workshop of his friend Andrew Ruhl for a chat. Andrew prized his cabinet-making tools and always kept them in excellent condition. Hiram would pick up a plane, run it across an old board and with his ventriloquism imitate a plane striking a nail, when Andrew would roundly cuss him for being a t——m fool. Mr. Ruhl later moved into a building known as the old 'lovejoy,' an old hotel building, which was situated across from the "White Elephant," or "White House" hotel, and near where the office of the Royal Bank of Canada is now located. Here he lived and plied his trade. He later moved into a house on St. Catharines Street, where he was a neighbor to the writer. He was fond of pets and kept a pet lamb which followed him about like a dog, hopping and frolicking at his heels. Many happy times have I spent with the old gentleman, who entertained me with songs of Germany and stories of his early life. One day in fun I asked him with as innocent an expression as I could command, if Germany was as large as Smithville. He replied: "You t——m fool, vat you know about Germany; as big as Smithville! You t——m fool!" He had two sons, Lewis and Anthony and a daughter, Minnie, who was loved by all who knew her.

The old gentleman had a ready wit, a good memory and remained youthful until the time of his death, which occurred at the home of his son, Lewis, at an age well over eighty years.

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*The Rev. J. M. Van Every*

This dear old friend of my father and mother in reply to my request for a brief outline of his life and work said: "I was pleased to learn that a Smithville boy had the ambition to undertake to write the history of his native town. The subject is dear to me, and the author I highly esteem, knowing so well his parentage, whom I also esteemed."

John Marshall Van Every is the son of John C. Van Every and Lousie Bartlett. He was born January 21st, 1850, at Smithville in the home

now occupied by the Artist, John Field. At the age of fifteen he began teaching school in January of the year 1866. His first school was at Silver Street, now Bismark. When he made application for this school the principal trustee manifested astonishment that one so young would apply for the position. He retired from the room to confer with his wife, and upon his return said that the boy might have the school for three months on trial.

The trustee's wife had favored a trial because of the pluck exhibited by the youngster in undertaking the task.

Here he taught for two years. The enrollment of scholars was 85. His salary was fifteen to eighteen dollars per month and board was one dollar and a half per week. He taught school at Abingdon for one year and for one year at Mud Creek.

On Friday, November the fifteenth, 1867, he attended a young people's prayer meeting at the home of James B. Hopkins, Smithville, and there made a public profession of Christ. On November 17th, 1867, he joined the Wesleyan Methodist Church and in May, 1869, began his public ministry.

On March 14th, 1870, he left Smithville to take up the work of the christian ministry in Missouri. His first Circuit was New Loudon, Mo., where he had ten appointments. Here he travelled from one appointment to another on horseback.

In 1872 he was transferred to the Detroit Conference where he spent fourteen years. While stationed at the Upper Peninsula he had an associate pastor (Indian), who preached at the Chippewa Indian point, extending for two hundred miles on the south shore of Lake Superior. While in this Conference he built up several city charges, which were located in the mining districts. In 1884 he was elected treasurer of the Detroit Conference.

In 1889 on account of Mrs. Van Every's health he removed to California. The Jamestown *Daily Alert* of May 29th, 1888 said: "Mr. Van-Every has been one of the most popular and successful pastors ever in the city. In California he did splendid work in a saloon infested district, after which he was given a church in Oakland, California, a beautiful city on the Pacific coast, where he and Mrs. VanEvery still reside. Mrs. VanEvery is a native of Missouri and has been a true christian helper in the work of strenuous years. Reminiscing of Smithville, Mr. Van-Every said: "When I left Smithville in 1870 the village proper had about five hundred inhabitants. There was only one school house where I attended when, now Doctor, Fred Eastman, was teacher in the public school downstairs, and William Cruickshank was the teacher in the Grammar or High School upstairs. The dignified Robert Thompson was Postmaster. The merchants were Martin Lally, Jos. Durkee, James Middleton, Cicero Harris and George Brant. The Squires were Abishai Morse and Jacob Kennedy. The churches were Wesleyan Methodist, Methodist Episcopal, Christian Universalist and Catholic. The hotels were run by Palmer Buckbee and Mr. Bates. There were two flour mills, one by the bridge and the other near the public school. The following



men from Smithville went into the ministry, namely Isaac B. Tallman, David Kennedy, George Field, George Bridgman, Edwin McCollom, Abishai Morse, W. P. French, J. E. Russ and J. M. Van Every. Those were the days of the Kennedys, Morses, Bridgmans, Fields, Brants, Thomsons, Lallys, Teeters, Durkees, Murgatroyds, Collards, McColloms, Middletons, Hills, Nesses, Daltons, Camps, etc." Mr. Van Every visited his old home town in 1906 renewing old friends of his boyhood days. He takes a keen interest in all things pertaining to Smithville and has a warm spot in his heart for the place of his birth. Smithville on the other hand is proud to own him as a son.

#### *D. Ward Eastman*

D. W. Eastman was born in Smithville in the year 1838, and is the son of W. O. Eastman and Catharine Keefer. His grandparents were of Welsh and Alsatian origin. His paternal grandfather was the Rev. Daniel Ward Eastman, one of the most outstanding and most widely known of the early missionaries of Canada. He was a licentiate of the Presbyterian Church at Morristown, N.J., and came with his wife on horseback from that state to the Niagara District in 1801. Father Eastman, as the pioneer missionary was known, carried the gospel over Indian trails from Oakville on the east to Bothwell on the west. He personally organized seven Presbyterian churches in the Niagara and Gore District. and with the aid of two others organized the first Presbytery with twenty-six churches in charge. One of Mr. Eastman's charges was Niagara Falls South, which recently celebrated its 120th anniversary. Another was the church at Pelham which has passed the century mark. In covering the missions under his charge he rode on horseback through the wilderness to Oakville, Brantford, Eramosa and as far west as Bothwell. More than once saddlebags formed his pillow in the forest. Over three thousand couples were joined in marriage by him. The fee for performing the ceremony in the early days was small, a bag of grain, or, if paid in cash, usually two dollars. A story is told of one couple who came to the Manse to have the happy event consummated, who brought a bag of beans for the minister's fee. The groom, being doubtful about the acceptability of these, went to see the minister first. He had scarcely entered the Manse until he popped his head out again and called: "It is all right Maggie; he will take the beans." Another old chap who was very fond of money, after the wedding ceremony, handed Mr. Eastman, who had a sense of humor, a ten dollar bill, expecting to receive his change from the then customary fee of two dollars. "Thanks, very much," said the minister, pocketing the bill. "I see you appreciate a good wife." At the age of fifty, Mr. Eastman became blind, but from a well-stored mind he continued to preach the Old Gospel.

Such was the character and life of the paternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch, Mr. Ward Eastman.

His maternal grandfather was George Keefer, who, as a lad of eighteen journeyed on foot through bush trails from New Jersey to Thorold and for services in the Revolutionary War received a grant of six hundred

acres of land, covering the site of the present Town of Thorold. His son, Thomas C. Keefer, the most eminent Canadian Engineer of the past generation, surveyed the line for the St. Lawrence bridge at Montreal. He was elected President of the Canadian and American Society of Civil Engineers.

Mr. Eastman recalls hearing that remarkable patriot, William Lyon Mackenzie speak in the Methodist Church at Smithville, with Squire Morse in the chair.

Mr. Eastman's education began in the old school at Middleport. He was appointed a trustee of the Smithville High School which office he held continuously for thirty-seven years. For a number of years Mr. Eastman kept a drug store where the Boulter store is now situated and the writer recalls many visits to Mr. Eastman's store, his principal purchases being a cent's worth of candy.

Catharine O. Eastman, a sister of D. W. Eastman, married on Sept. 5th, 1865, J. T. Middleton, who became Sheriff of the City of Hamilton, where he still resides. Mr. Middleton is well and favorably known in Smithville where he lived for ten years.

D. W. Eastman was a member of the Presbyterian Church at Smithville for many years. Upon his retirement from business he removed to the beautiful Town of Barrie, where he still lives. He gave one son to the ministry, Rev. Fred Eastman, who married Emily Hamilton, a daughter of Doctor Hamilton, a former respected physician of Smithville. Mr. Eastman retains a splendid memory and a clear intellect in his 84th year. He is one of Smithville's sons who bears an unblemished name and is held in high esteem.

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*John Field, Sr.*

Over ninety years of age, Mr. Field is Smithville's oldest citizen, and the first photographer in the village, having started a photograph gallery in the year 1851, with his brother George.

The name Field comes from De La Felde, people of Normandy, who afterwards settled in England. Marshall Field, the great merchant of Chicago, was a descendent of the same Field family. The following history of photography will show the broad field of this art, which has been Mr. Field's experience, as he has followed the development of photography from its very beginning in America.

A Frenchman by the name of Nicephore Niepce is regarded as the inventor of Photography. He was the first man to obtain a permanent picture with the aid of light. Born in 1765 at Chalons-Sur-Saone (France) he joined the army, but ill health and failing eyesight compelled him to resign his commission. With his brother Charles, he later began to make experiments in chemistry and mechanics. Gradually he turned his attention to the art of lithography and eventually the idea of forming sun pictures occurred to him. There are certain resinous and bituminous substances which when exposed in thin films to the action of light and air become insoluble in oils. In his process of picture making, Niepce coated a silver plate with a varnish consisting of a solution of bitumen of

Judaea in oil of lavender. When dry this was exposed for six or seven hours in a camera provided with a lens. The image was developed by immersing the plate in oil of lavender, which dissolved the portions of the bitumen unaffected by the light, leaving a picture in insoluble bitumen. After experimenting with various materials Niepce made his bitumen process known in 1829, but it was never used to any great extent. Another Frenchman named Daguerre had also made experiments in Photography and in 1829 he entered into partnership with Niepce. When the latter died, Daguerre continued the experiments. The outcome was the process known as the daguerrotype, which was popular for many years. It was with this process that John and George Field began their art in Smithville in the year 1851, shortly after Daguerre had given the process to the world. The back of the daguerrotype produced by the Field brothers was of copper and the front of pure silver. These sold for twelve shillings each. Many years after the process known as the tintype was introduced which sold much cheaper than the daguerrotypes. The price charged for these was twenty-five cents each. Mr. Field has many of these old pictures taken nearly a century ago, which are as well preserved and as clear as if taken but a few days.

The Fields migrated to America and settled in New Jersey, some of them coming to Canada at the time of the early settlement, locating along the Niagara River and at other points in Ontario. Ellen Field of Smithville, the mother of John Hill, was a descendent of the Niagara River family. Other descendents of the New Jersey family living in Smithville are John Field, the subject of this chapter; Isaac Field, Mrs. Nellie Hays, daughter of Doctor Field; and Miss Mary Field. John Field is the father of Doctor John Field, school Inspector at Goderich.

Mr. Field is a well informed man, who at his advanced age retains his memory and full mental powers.



## CHAPTER XVI.

### SHORT SKETCHES OF SMITHVILLE CITIZENS

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We wish in this chapter to give our readers a few short sketches of the lives of some of the sons and daughters of Smithville, who have brought honor to their native village, in their various callings. Many others have gone forth into the world and carved out for themselves a successful and honored career. We cannot however, refer to them all, nor have we the information at hand to do so. To all these successful men and women, we would record our appreciation of their success and would express our joy in all that makes them happy. May they bring fresh honors to the village of their youth as the days and years turn their hair to silver and to grey. May their thoughts often turn to the old home fireside, to the companions of youth, and to those days which will sweeten the coming years as they mingle with the busy world.

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*Professor Charles Patterson*, son of Frank Patterson, was educated at Smithville High School, and Tufts College, Boston. He is now Professor of English Literature in Massachusetts Agricultural College. Mr. Patterson is also an artist in Shakespearian drama. A few years ago he gave "The Merchant of Venice," as a benefit concert for the Smithville Public Library.

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*Doctor John Field, Jr.*, son of John Field, the Photographer, was educated at Smithville Public and High Schools, completing his education at College. He was for a time principal of the High School in Goderich. He is now a School Inspector, with headquarters at this place.

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*Rev. William Pell French*, son of John French, was educated at Smithville schools, after which he took a theological course at College. He is now preaching the gospel in the United States.

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*Edgar Russ*, son of William Russ, a native of Smithville, is an ordained minister of the Methodist Church.

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*Dr. John Cutler, Jr.*, son of John Cutler, is a medical doctor, practicing in the United States.

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*Lena Field*, daughter of Isaac Field, was educated at Smithville High School, after which for a time she taught school. Taking advanced education she became a missionary of the Presbyterian Church, going out to the field of Trinidad. Miss Field is a clever young woman, who is filling an important mission in the world.

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*George Bridgman*, was the son of Wesley Bridgman. He was an artist of outstanding ability. At the time of his death he was a resident of the city of Vancouver.

*Professor Leslie Bridgman*, son of Milton Bridgman, is a son of Smithville, who is a leader in the musical achievements of the City of Vancouver, where he resides.

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*James T. Middleton*, known to many of the older citizens of Smithville as "Jimmy" Middleton, was for a number of years a merchant in the village. He is the son of Arthur Middleton. He has for many years occupied the position of Sheriff in the City of Hamilton.

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*Rev. Fred. Eastman*, son of D. Ward Eastman, was educated at Smithville High School, and completed his education at College, after which he was ordained as a minister of the gospel.

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*Thomas Pearson*, was a Scotchman of the old school. He held the position of Division Court Clerk for over fifty years, with credit to the district and to himself. He was a respected citizen and a familiar figure in Smithville for many years.

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*John Dunn*, was a Pettifogger, who for several years, pleaded cases in Division Court, against the lawyers. John was of Irish descent, and possessed the characteristic humor of his countrymen. He was for many years a familiar figure in Smithville. He died in the month of July, in the year 1922 at the age of 93.

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*William H. Morgan* is of English parentage. His father was Richard Morgan, of Smithville. He was for a number of years engaged in business in Smithville, where he was highly respected. He later removed to Toronto, following the life of a Commercial Traveller, which position he still retains. He has been an active worker in the Presbyterian Church in Ontario. He was superintendent of a large Sunday School in Toronto, and is now superintendent of Knox Church Sunday School, in Fenwick, where he resides. Mr. Morgan is a strong champion of the splendid ideals and traditions of the British race from whence he sprung.

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*Marcus O. Merritt*, son of Robert Merritt, has conducted successful singing schools throughout the Niagara Peninsula for fifty years. He received his early musical training from Jacob A. Griffin, a nephew of Smith Griffin. He has been a leader of the Methodist choir in Smithville for twenty years. The community is indebted to him for his splendid contribution to the musical training of the young during the past half century. Mr. Merritt possesses a baritone voice of rich quality, which has given pleasure to the lovers of music in Smithville for many years.

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*Major F. O. Burch*, is an old Fenian Raid veteran, and has the honor of being the father of men prominent in the military achievements of the British Empire. He gave a brave son to England's cause when his son Edgar was killed in the South African War. Major Arthur Burch, another son, was a senior Chaplain in the Canadian forces in the World War. Major Frank Burch is an ex-member of the Township Council, and a respected citizen of Smithville.

*A. D. De Lacey*, has been a resident of Smithville all his life. He has held the position of Division Court Bailiff for Lincoln County for over fifty years. He was for many years a successful auctioneer. During the long tenure of his office as Bailiff he never made himself offensive, and his kindly manner has made him many friends in his native village and county, where he is widely known.

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*Doctor Sidney S. Morgan*, son of Richard Morgan, was for a number of years Principal of Hamilton Normal School. He now occupies the position of Director of professional training for the Province of Ontario. Mr. Morgan is one of Smithville's sons of whom she can be justly proud.

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*Martin J. Barry* was born in Smithville. He is the grandson of Martin Lally and lived with his grandmother until he had completed his education at the Smithville Public and High Schools, after which he became active in the life insurance business. He now occupies the position of District Manager of the Imperial Life Assurance Co., with his headquarters at Guelph. He is one of Smithville's boys who has many warm friends in his native village.

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*Mary E. Sammons* was born in Smithville and with her brothers and sisters attended school at the old red school at Middleport. While still in her teens her family removed to Grimsby where she attended High or Grammar School. She began teaching school at the age of seventeen and taught for forty years, retiring from the profession about five years ago. Most of her work was in the Niagara Peninsula. She now resides in Hamilton and retains a loyal friendship for all her old friends. It is impossible to estimate the value of such a life, devoted for forty years to the youth of our land. We are sure that the children who have come under the influence of her personality and intellect will be better men and women as a result of that privilege.

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*Joseph M. Martin, J.P.*, has for many years been a prominent business man in Smithville. Before Smithville showed signs of progress and growth he had sufficient confidence in its future to build a splendid business block, his present place of business. Strictly honorable, he has made a success of his business undertaking.

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*Cacey Smith* was a well-known character in Smithville thirty years ago. He lived in a little frame house near Middleport. He was a tall, wiry man of remarkable strength and endurance. He was a shoemaker by trade, and was also said to be the greatest woodchopper of his time. He swung a seven pound axe with speed and skill, and would lay a tree low with remarkable speed. He was also a great cradler. In earlier days many strong men who cradled in the fields from early morning until dark, took a great deal of pride in the record which they could make in the acreage cradled in a given time. Cacey was also a ventriloquist and often amused the children on the streets of Smithville. Beneath a



rough exterior was a kind heart. He seldom left the village without a well-filled pocket of stick candy which he handed out to certain children on his way home. I can recall receiving some of these sweets from his hand. Cicey Smith is a name that will never leave the memory of many who are now grown up children, and sweets will never again taste as good as those received from Cicey's hand.

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*William P. Henning*, son of Doctor N. P. Henning, was born in Smithville, educated at the public and High Schools there and at Toronto University. He has filled important positions on the teaching staffs of the largest business colleges in the United States. He is now a teacher in one of the High Schools of Pittsburg, Pa. His wife is a Smithville girl, who was Ella Hill before her marriage.

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*John Teeter* is the eldest son of James Teeter of Smithville. He was educated in the public and High Schools of his native village. Early in life he showed a marked ability in art. A natural love for the brush and canvass has developed this talent. For many years he has painted the scenery for local amateur plays which have delighted the eyes of many audiences. Many of his oil paintings are splendid achievements and reflect his ability as an artist. Mr. Teeter's work is largely original and creative and his ability in artistic work singles him out as a genius. For many years he has delighted the people of Smithville with his paintings of Sacred subjects, which have hung on the walls of the Presbyterian Church at Christmastide.

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*John Cartwright* was the eldest son of Sidney Cartwright. He was born in Smithville and when England went to war with South Africa he enlisted and went over with the Canadian Militia. A reception was held for him upon his return. Although he came back to his native village without a wound he developed a fever soon after his return which cut off his young life. He was of a friendly, happy disposition and the early call of death was sincerely regretted by his townsmen.

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*Robert W. Wade* or "Bob" as he was best known in his home town is the son of Charles Wade. He was Principal of the Smithville public school for a number of years. At the time of the South African War he joined the colors and served overseas. I heard him say on the evening of his return: "Well, boys, I thought I would like to fight just once for Old England, anyway." Mr. Wade is a born agriculturalist, the son of a farmer, and soon after his return from the war he attended the Agricultural College at Guelph, and later became one of the Professors of that College. He is now head of the live stock branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, and is one of the most energetic officials of the Provincial Government. He is well-known by stock men all over our Province. He married Maude Elliott, who was a Smithville girl.

## THE STORY OF SMITHVILLE

*N. P. Henning, M.D.*

Doctor Henning followed his profession in Smithville for many years. He was the loved and respected family physician of many old families as long as he remained in Smithville. He was a clever student of medicine and kept abreast of the times in medical research. He was a man who loved honor and honesty and practiced both in his dealings with men. His death occurred at the home of his daughter, Mary, at Hamilton, having reached an age well beyond the three score years and ten.

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*J. A. Schnick* was born in Germany and came to America as a young man. He located in Smithville where he established a tailor shop. He has been for many years a respected citizen of the village, taking an active interest in education, having been a member of the Public and High School Trustee Boards. He has been Superintendent of the Presbyterian Sabbath School for many years. He is a man of sterling qualities, active in business and a worthy citizen of Smithville.

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*James E. Johnston*

Mr. Johnston was a familiar figure in Smithville for many years. He was a clerk for the firm of R. Murgatroyd and Sons at Smithville and for a time conducted a branch store for them at St. Anns. Up until the time of his death he was a trusted and faithful employee of this firm. He was a man of exemplary habits, kind and courteous to all.

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*Heroes of the Great War*

In response to the call for overseas service in the British army, the following young men of Smithville responded, and by their service and sacrifice on the battlefield, won the respect and appreciation of their native village. We present their names below with pride in their achievement and with thanks to God for their safe return to native soil:—

Gordon Shrum, University Battery; William Grassie, Artillery; Wesley Cartwright, Stretcher Bearer; Walter Field, 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles; C. Schnick, Infantry; E. Schnick, Infantry; Jack Brant, Motor Transport; Jack Sheppard, Despatch Rider.

If there were any others who went from Smithville, they are included in this tribute as men worthy of their country's pride.

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*George Merrithew* has been for many years a familiar figure on the streets of Smithville. He has lived to see many changes take place in the village. He is an honest old citizen, who has a smile of welcome for those who return to visit their native village.

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*W. S. Hibbard, V.S.*

Doctor Hibbard has for many years practiced as a Veterinary Surgeon in Smithville. He has also conducted a horse and car livery business for a number of years. He is widely known, and commands the respect of his townsmen and friends.

Doctor Tom Grassie, the son of Charles Grassie, was educated at Smithville schools and Toronto University. He is a successful dentist, practising in Welland. He has a wide circle of friends in his native village.

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*Professor Israel Allen* has been for many years a teacher of organ and piano and his efforts have been attended with success. He has ably filled the position of organist in the Methodist Church for many years.

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*John S. Davis, B.A.*, is the son of John Davis of Smithville. He was for a number of years a High School teacher, after which he studied law at Osgoode Hall and was admitted to the Bar. He practiced law in Latchford and Cobalt during the boom years of these mining towns. He is now following his profession in his native village.

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*George Davis*

Nearly every village boasts of an Amateur Dramatic Club and Smithville is no exception to the rule. In earlier days such plays as "Ten Nights in a Bar-room" and "East Lynn" were presented to Smithville audiences. Among the amateur actors of this time were Frank Patterson, Harvey Patterson and Jerry Collins. At a later period a number of New England plays were presented. Some of the players were Miss M. Henning, Miss Grace Walker, Miss Bell Walker, Calvin Warner, William Trembley, George Davis, Claire McMurchie, George Henning. Fred Johnson and John Teeter were the artists who looked after the scenery for these plays. A revival of interest in amateur dramatic effort took place a few years ago when that charming old New England play, "The Old Homestead," from the pen of Denman Thompson, was produced. Some of the players in this production were Mrs. Roy Goring, Miss Belle Walker, Mrs. George Brant, Mrs. Harold Hibbard, Mrs. Tom Elliott, Clarence Merritt, W. F. H. Patterson, John Teeter, George Davis, Mr. Armstrong and Harry Patterson. Playing the star part, that of Uncle Josh, Mr. George Davis excelled many professional actors playing in this class of drama. Some who saw the author of the play Denman Thompson, act this character in New York and Chicago, declared that Mr. Davis was his equal. Mr. Davis as an amateur actor, is a wonder on the stage. "The Old Homestead" was staged under the direction of Mr. John Teeter, while the scenery was the product of his brush and was worthy of being hung in any theatre.



## CHAPTER XVII.

### BRIEF RECORDS OF SMITHVILLE

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The following are those who occupied the position of Squire in Smithville:

Squire Smith Griffin.  
Squire Jacob Kennedy—Local Preacher.  
Squire Abishai Morse—Local Preacher.  
Squire Douglas Griffin.  
Squire William Patterson.  
Squire Smith.  
Squire Bridgman.  
Squire William Adams.  
Squire Jerry Collins.

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*William Forsythe* was a storekeeper and Postmaster, whose place of business was on the sight of the present Post Office.

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The first medical doctor in Smithville was Doctor Kelly, who married a daughter of Ned Griffin. The next doctor who practiced medicine in the village was Dr. Franklin. Other doctors who followed were Dr. Collver, Dr. Allway, Dr. Turner, Dr. Henning, Dr. McMurchie, Dr. Carlton, Dr. Zumpstein, Dr. Munro, Dr. George Munro, Dr. Robertson.

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In the days when Smithville had a carding mill they spun, wove and carded. Farmers traded their wool for full cloth.

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*Militia.* The general training of militia took place in Smithville in earlier days in the month of June, with Squire Ness as Captain. The training was followed by horse-racing, lots of whisky and frequent fights.

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*The Orangemen.* The old Orange Hall was situated at the Trembley corner at the south end of Canboro Street. The Order had a large membership and in the year 1866 were on their glorious parade. Whiskey was cheap and flowed freely. John Dickey, the Marshall, rode his horse into Trembley's hotel and broke through the floor. The Order does not permit drunkenness in our own day.

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*Toll Gates.* The stone road leading from Smithville to Camp's school was known as the Buckbee road, and had a toll gate opposite the present residence of George Adams. Toll gates, where a toll was charged the traveller, were quite common in Ontario in early days.

*Musical; Bands.* The following are past Band leaders in Smithville in the order of their time of leadership: Wheeler Camp, Jim Jimmerman, Ed. Camp, Will Camp, Elliott Taylor, Harry Patterson.

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*Choral.* M. O. Merritt has been a singing school master for over fifty years and for many years has been leader of the Methodist Choir.

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*Orchestra.* Mr. Isaac Copeland started the first orchestra in Smithville of which we have any record. He has conducted many orchestras since that time. He is a teacher of violin and an accomplished player of that instrument, which is so difficult to master.

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*Vocal.* Mrs. Madge (Field) Heslop, now residing in Welland, is a daughter of Smithville, whose voice was carefully trained in New York City with wonderful results. Mrs. Heslop has a Soprano voice of remarkable sweetness and range.

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*Clarionet.* Mr. Will W. Camp is an excellent clarionet player who was conductor of several Smithville Bands and was leader for a number of years of the Presbyterian choir.

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*Organ.* Professor Leslie Bridgman, now an accomplished musician, residing in Vancouver, is a native of Smithville. He was for a number of years a teacher of organ and piano in Smithville.

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Town meeting was held once a year when the municipal affairs of the district were discussed.

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*Reunion.* Smithville's first old boys and girls' reunion was held on September 16th and 17th, 1921, and was a grand success. Hundreds of old boys and girls met in reunion and declared it to be one of the happiest occasions in their lives. The old village and her citizens just beamed with hospitality and welcome.

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Smith Griffin owned the first Tannery in Smithville which was located on the present agricultural grounds.

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Waxey House was a shoemaker and kept store where the Martin Block is located.

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John Tanner's father kept a store in Martin Lally's building. Mr. Lally bought out the business.

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*Police Village.* Smithville first became a Police Village in the year 1887. The first Trustees were Andrew Patterson, Edward Adkins and Hugh Walker. The people became dissatisfied with the system and in two years reverted to the Township.

The Durkeys were originally the McDurks of Argyleshire, Scotland. They came to New Jersey and changed their name to Durkey. They afterward came to Smithville where they operated a Tannery. Mrs. James Teeter and Mrs. Calvin Page are descendants of this family.

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The Camps were originally Scottish people bearing the name of Campbell, who espoused the cause of Bonny Prince Charlie. They came to New Jersey and thence to Canada, locating at Smithville where they were prominent in business for many years. Mr. Will W. Camp is a descendant of this family.

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A distillery was once operated on the flats above the grist mill. There was no moonshine made here. It was all daylight production.

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*Stage Coach.* The stage coach drivers on the route from Smithville to Grimsby over the old stone road were Lew Nixon, George Merritt, Harvey McCollom, and John Linderberry. The old Grimsby stone road was built about 1856.

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Court was held in early days at Old Niagara. The jurymen received no mileage fee, but received the munificent sum of two shillings for each Jury on which they were chosen.

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Smithville's big fire occurred at midnight in the year 1886 and destroyed the following properties: William Morgan's store, Constable's printing office, a residence, Adam's shoe store, Lally's store, two houses and Will Adkin's store.

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Wool was carded at the carding mill and made into rolls. The farmers spun this into yarn and their wives knit it into socks which were sold.

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The industries of Smithville sixty years ago consisted of two barrel factories. Mr. Lally employed seven shoemakers. Durkey's harness shop and store employed seven men. There was a carding mill and a grist mill. Bushe's buggy works employed thirty men. Russe's foundry employed four men. Durkey's tannery employed two men, Robert's ashery two men. Nathan Williams operated a chair and coffin factory. Two sons were connected with the business, Albert and Spencer. Frank, a merchant of Ridgeville, is a son of Albert. At a later date George Copeland started a wagon works where he employed nine men.

At one period in Smithville's past the village possessed eight taverns and saloons and two wholesale liquor stores. In those days the liquor business was not frowned upon as it is today. Drinking was more generally indulged in. It is said that whiskey sold as cheap as 18 cents a gallon, and Dug House had a strong liking for it. One day he took more of the fire water than usual and went home. His wife, who had seen him come home intoxicated on previous occasions, decided that



it was time to administer a strong protest. She therefore proceeded to warm Dug's ears with the palm of her hand. After receiving several good slaps, Dug partly sobered and very angry left the house and proceeded to the middle of the street. Here he took off his coat, threw it in the dust and tramping upon it declared to the world that he could lick any d—— woman in Smithville.

Dug was not the only man of his time who liked a little more whiskey than he could navigate with. Alfred Aljou came home intoxicated and while still wobbly in his legs he upset a jar of cream. His mother in a rebuking tone of voice, said: "Why, Alfred, you have knocked over that jar, broken it and spilled all the cream." "Well, mother," replied Alfred, "who in the mischief disputes you."

The following verse was composed by some Smithville Poet who was probably jealous of or disapproved of certain leaders in the public life of the village.

It read:—

*Bishai Morse he carries the bell,  
And old T. White -y rings it,  
Joe Forsyth he sets the tune,  
And greasy Oill he sings it.*

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*The Old Baseball Nine.* About twenty-five years ago the lineup of the old baseball-team was as follows—

Pitcher—Mr. Vanatter.

Catcher—F. Roberts.

First Base—Nibbs Culp.

Second Base—J. Deans.

Third Base—Wm. McCollum.

Short-stop—Lewis Ruhl.

Right Field—Aylmer McPherson.

Centre Field—J. O'Connell.

Left Field—J. T. Grassie.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### SMITHVILLE IN 1852

In order to note the changes which have taken place in our native village it is necessary to describe it as fully as possible as we find it at certain periods of its history. One of such periods for review is the year 1852. At this time the following businesses were being conducted in Smithville:—A store business known as the "Checkered Store," because it was painted on the outside in squares, red and white alternate. This store was run by W. A. Bush and was situated where the McMurchie property was located at a later period. Many of the older residents of Smithville will recall the old checkered store. A gunshop was operated by Johnnie McGregor. A general store was the place of business of Jacob and Jim Griffin. Matthew and William Roberts had a shoe shop at this period, a business found in every community in earlier days. A grist mill of wood construction was operated by Taylor and Cologne, and a factory in the end of this building for making cloth was run by Mr. Potter. A saw mill was operated by Mr. Woods. A pail factory was run by Allen Nelson. A wagon shop, situated on the south end of the bridge was run by Thomas Murgatroyd, Sr., and Thomas Jr., who did iron work and Robert who did painting, trimming and some woodwork. John Davis, one of Smithville's oldest citizens, worked in the woodwork department of this establishment. At about this time the firm of Murgatroyd and Russ built steam engines in the village. The first of these was placed in a mill on the Elliott property. At the present time we hear of Smithville's first industry. As a matter of fact Smithville had industries of considerable importance before most of her present population was born.

John McCollom had a harness shop on the north side of the bridge opposite the Murgatroyd establishment. Here Noah Davis worked. McColloms did the dash stitching for the Murgatroyds. The Durkeys ran a tannery on the Wade flats. This also was an important business in earlier days.

A California swing like a ferris wheel which was run by hand, was located where the Martin Block now stands. Here the young men paid a fee and took their young lady for a trip up toward the clouds. This brief picture of Smithville as it was in 1852 will bring to mind some familiar places and will we trust be a source of information to the younger generation.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### SMITHVILLE IN 1876

In this brief chapter we shall take a glance at Smithville as it was in the year 1876. It was said at this time to have a population of about seven hundred people. It contained the following churches, viz., Methodist Episcopal Methodist, Roman Catholic, Universalist and Disciple, also a high and public school, two resident ministers, two public halls, a Mechanics' Institute, one wholesale and retail store, four merchants and general traders, three groceries, three hotels, two druggists and stationers, one gents' furnishing shop of boots, shoes and clothing, two boot and shoe shops, one grist mill, one carding mill, fulling and cloth dressing, one saw mill and shingle factory with planing machines, two pump factories, one pot and pearl ashery, two iron foundries and machine works, three plow makers, two carriage makers' shops, two coopers, one gunsmith, four blacksmiths, two tailors, two doctors of medicine, two artists, two tinsmiths, one cabinet and upholstering warehouse, two cabinet makers, two painters, one dentist, one watchmaker, two harness makers, one baker, and confectioner, two builders and two butchers.

We give below a list of citizens who lived in or near the village at this time, with their occupations, date of settlement, nativity and business:

Name	Date of Settlement	Nativity	Business
Thomas Adams.....	1869	England...	Shoemaker
W. B. Adams.....	1853	Canada...	Farmer and J.P.
Edward Adkins.....	1868	England...	Prop. Adkins' Hotel.
Robert A. Adams.....	1811	Canada...	Farmer
W. P. Buckbee.....	1845	Canada...	Prop. Buckbee Hotel.
William Cooper.....	1837	New York	Prop. Cooper Hotel.
D. W. Camp.....	1872	Canada...	Carriage Manufacturer
Hall Davis.....	1874	Canada...	Harness Maker
J. V. Daniels.....	1872	New York	Farmer.
Elliott & Woodlan....	1871	England..	Saw Mill & wood work
Ralph Field.....	1864	England...	Farmer.
C. T. Harris.....	1837	Canada...	Merchant
Edward Lounsburt....	1849	Canada...	Farmer
Reuben Lymburner....	1873	Canada...	Farmer
Robert Murgatroyd....	1835	New York	Merchant
W. B. Merritt.....	1817	Canada...	Farmer
Abishai Morse.....	1830	New York	Issuer Marriage Licenses
John P. Merritt.....	1868	Canada...	Farmer
Robert H. Merritt....	1832	Canada...	Farmer
Michael Nugent.....	1855	Ireland...	Farmer
Wm. Patterson, J.P....	1846	Canada....	Farmer, Saw Mill Prop.



Capt. W. H. Patterson..	1838	Canada ... Farmer
Matt. L. Roberts.....	1842	New York Asher
M. Roberts and Wm....	1842	New York House Mover and Manufacturer Potash
John Tanner.....	1860	Canada ... Harness & Trunk Mfg.
R. J. P. Thompson.....	1849	Canada ... Issuer Marriage Licenses
Gilbert Wrong.....	1875	Canada ... Farmer
John A. White.....	1870	Canada ... Farmer
Silas Wardell.....	1846	Canada ... Farmer

The location of the places of business and public institutions, owners of lots, homes, etc., at this time, were as follows:—

Foundry—where present Agricultural Hall stands.

Post Office—where Dr. Zumstein now lives.

Buckbee's Hotel—where Merritt house is located.

M. E. Church—where the Presbyterian Church is located.

Cooper's Hotel—where the Village Inn now stands.

Grist and Woollen Mills—where present grist mill is located.

Universalist Church—Near the residence of Frank Hays.

Elliott and Woodlan Saw Mill—on present Elliott property.

Ashery—Along the Twenty Mile Creek below the bridge.

Martin Lally and I. W. Cook owned nearly all the land facing Griffin and Canboro Streets. West of the Lally property was the Henry Smith Estate. The property facing Station Street was owned by A. Merideth.

Miss C. Murgatroyd owned the property east of Canboro Street and the property east of that was owned by Nathaniel Hill. The property at the west end of Colver Street was that owned by R. C. Griffin.

Richard Morgan and John N. French, Mary Teeter and William Cooper owned the lots on Brock Street.

If we compare the Smithville of 1876 with the Village of today we shall see what a complete change has taken place in the location and nature of the businesses engaged in, and also the almost complete change in the ownership of land.

## CHAPTER XX.

### SMITHVILLE IN 1912

Our native village in 1912 was not unlike many Ontario villages. Situated on the line of the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway, it had excellent train accommodation. Its places of business embraced five grocery stores, one hardware store, a jewelry store, bakery, harness shop, butcher shop, tin shop, three general stores, two barber shops, shoe stores, five blacksmith shops, implement shops and other lines of business. During this year the council laid a mile and a half of new cement sidewalks, a marked improvement over the old plank walks of the past. At this time the population of the village was 600.

During this year the Agricultural Society, established fifty years previous, added new buildings and improved the exhibition grounds. The Officers for the year of this Society were:—A. J. Nevills, President, and W. F. H. Patterson, Secretary. Mr. Patterson has held this position in the Society for a number of years and has been a hard worker in the interests of local agriculture.

The village had one Banking Institution, the Union Bank of Canada, which was under the management of Mr. C. Brooke Marsland, an English Banker of genial disposition, who succeeded Mr. J. Gordon Moffat. The most important asset of the village, next to its educational institutions was its public library, which was located in the Martin Block. Mr. J. M. Martin was librarian. This library was built up from a very small beginning by the untiring efforts of Mr. W. F. H. Patterson, Mr. John Roberts, Messrs. Robert and Ellis Murgatroyd, Mr. Jerry Collins, Rev. F. D. Roxburgh and other citizens of the community. Mr. Frank Roberts was the municipal clerk, filling that position in a very efficient manner. The municipal council consisted of the following:—

Charles Grassie, Reeve. Mr. Grassie had resided in the village for twenty-two years. He was elected to the position of Reeve three times by acclamation. He also held the position of Deputy-Reeve for several years. He was a carriage manufacturer and blacksmith, and also conducted a lumber business. He was a member of the High School Board and in religion was a Presbyterian. Mr. Grassie was a man who held the respect of the community.

A. D. Middaugh as a member of the council, was highly respected. He was a capable administrator of Municipal affairs.

Ithamer Nelson was a member of council for several years and was a progressive and highly respected farmer.

A. G. Boulter was a successful business man and a capable councillor.

Jacob Morley, another member of council, was proprietor of the Smithville flour mills. He was well and favorably known.

Smithville had no less than five churches:—Methodist, whose pastor was Rev. Dr. Scanlon; Presbyterian, Rev. Alex. Wilson; Disciple, no regular minister; Anglican, Rev. W. G. O. Thompson; Roman Catholic, Rev. Father Kelly.

The Principal at the High School at this time and for ten years previous was James Tremeer, a man of sterling character and outstanding ability as an educationalist.

The High School Board at this time was composed of the following: J. A. Schnick, merchant tailor; G. L. Griffin, farmer; W. B. Shrum, coal merchant; T. N. Vance, retired farmer; E. W. Murgatroyd, Private Banker, and J. S. Davis, barrister.

Some of the principal industries were:—S. W. Woodlan's foundry and machine shop. This business was an old established one, owned and managed by Mr. Woodlan who was the inventor of one of the best farm discs that has been placed on the market. Mr. Woodlan was a man of genial disposition, christian character and a highly respected citizen.

Mr. W. E. Sheppard conducted a repair shop. He is a man of considerable ability as a machinist, and is well-known in Smithville.

Robert E. Book conducted a planing mill. He is a young man of thrift and progress.

In agriculture Smithville can boast of having one of the most successful and efficient fruit and vegetable growers in Ontario. Mr. George Adams, whose farm is situated on the Twenty Flats above the village, is the best posted man in fruit and vegetable cultivation in the county. His years of study and experiments in plant life have made him an authority on their growth and development.

This brief chapter, picturing Smithville in 1912, will enable the reader to note the progress made in the ten years following and may profitably be compared with the chapter on Smithville in 1922.



## CHAPTER XXI.

### SMITHVILLE IN 1922

Smithville, having once been a Police Village and reverted to the Township, decided to try it again, and in November, 1914, it again became the Police Village of Smithville. The first Trustees were Roy J. Goring, W. F. H. Patterson and Charles Grassie. The first business meeting was held on January 11th, 1915. The Trustees in 1922 were Ellis Murgatroyd, M. Simmerman and William Trembley.

The village has its own electric light and power system, obtaining power under a long lease from the Hamilton Cataract Power, Light and Traction Co., in 1915.

Natural gas was obtained in 1920 from the Chippewa Oil and Gas Co.

The main streets of the village, Griffin and Canboro, were paved with tarvia in 1919 and completed in 1921.

In 1922 the population of the village was 750.

Mr. Roy Goring was President of the Board of Trade, a live organization which has done splendid work during the past few years in local improvement and development. Mr. H. G. Parrott, manager of the Union Bank of Canada, was secretary of this organization.

The largest mercantile establishment in the village, that of Messrs. R. Murgatroyd and Sons, was sold in 1910 to Messrs James R. Goring and Son, who have built up a large business and remodelled the store, so that it compares favorably with the finest stores in the cities.

Mr. Roy J. Goring, the junior member of this firm, has done much toward the improvement of Smithville. As a village Trustee and as President of the Board of Trade, he has been an active leader in all movements for the advancement of Smithville.

Another adopted son of Smithville is Mr. Hanson Gracey, who for a number of years conducted an implement business in the village. He later became engaged in real estate transactions and was honored by the Reeveship of the Township in which he has done splendid work for education and progress. It is impossible to estimate the debt which Smithville owes to the sons of other communities who have come to the village, shown a confidence in the future of the place and put their shoulder to the wheel of progress. While it was the work of the ancestors of the native villagers to pioneer the district and lay the foundations, it has fallen to the lot of the adopted sons and daughters to, in a large measure, start the village on the road to growth and progress.

In the year 1922 there were ten new houses constructed. The houses which have been built in the village during the past few years have been large and of good appearance.

The places of business are the following. The up-to-date flour mill of E. B. Acton, flour and feed store of Isaac Collins, saw mill of Robert E. Book, saw mill of Wm. Mitchener, The Smithville Metal Industries, Bakery of Bert Shrum, Garage of W. E. Sheppard, Garage of Vail and

Wilcox, Implements and Automobiles Business of M. B. Cosby, butcher shop and grocery of Mr. Boulter, shoe store of J. M. Martin, general store of R. J. Goring and Son, general store of L. P. Killins, general store of Mr. McMillan, furniture and undertaking business of Ernest Merritt; Merritt House Hotel, Charlie Adams, proprietor; Village Inn, proprietor, Ransom Cooper; law office of J. S. Davis, law offices of Bradford and Bradford, Red Front Store of Mr. Smith, tailor shop of J. A. Schnick, blacksmith shop of J. Teeter and Son, blacksmith shop of H. Couse, drug store of Mr. Henderson, Samuel Fisher's machine shop, hardware store of F. Hays, and creamery of Mr. Bartlett.

It may be noted here that very few of the proprietors of businesses in Smithville in 1922 are Smithville citizens by birth.. They are, however, energetic men who have the best interests of the village at heart, and are striving unitedly to make it a bigger and better place in which to live.

A moving picture theatre is operated by Mrs. Jack Shepard.

The Postmaster at this time was Mr. Vance; the Principal of the High School, Mr. Judge; the Librarian, Bert Griffin, a descendant of the founders of the village. The Reeve of the municipality was Hanson Gracey; the station agent, Mr. Kelly, the night operator, Jack McDonald, the dentist, Dr. Lymburner; the medical doctors, Dr. Zumpstein, Dr. Munro and Dr. Robertson; the Presbyterian minister, Rev. Mr. Radford; the Methodist minister, Rev. Mr. Ayers.

The village has a Masonic Lodge with a fairly large membership.

The Women's Institute branch is a splendid community organization.

With its schools and churches, wide streets and attractive homes, its electric lights, its two lines of railway, its connection with the good roads systems of the Province, with its law-abiding and contented population, Smithville can truly be said "a desirable place in which to live." What a transformation from the days when Richard Griffin and his son cleared the first acre of land, when the tread mill ground the grain, when the hum of the spinning wheel was drowned by the cry of the wolf. As we recall those early days and compare them with those of our generation we can readily see the advantages, the conveniences, the luxuries which are ours to enjoy, of which our sturdy forefathers knew nothing.

As we accept these privileges of our day and generation, may we recall with grateful hearts the story of the struggle of our ancestors to carve out for their posterity a home and a community under the old British flag for which they had fought, and under whose protection they had lived all their lives. May we realize that it is our privilege and duty to pass on to our children and to future generations the privileges, the ideals, the liberty under British institutions, which have been handed down to us. May we continue to dwell in harmony and good-will together in the spirit of helpfulness and good-fellowship, ever mindful of our common ancestry and common heritage.

















